SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

"What You Told Us..."

Wildlife Strategy

DEVELOPMENT IN HARMONY WITH OUR ENVIRONMENT

Manitoba Round Table
for Sustainable Development

APRIL, 2000

To all Manitobans

The *Sustainable Development Act,* which came into force on July 1, 1998, requires the Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development under section 7(4):

1. to *"prepare, in consultation with the Interdepartmental Planning Board and departments, and publish draft policies, recommendations and proposed action plans in relation to...component strategies..."* as per our "Workbook on Wildlife";
2. to *"consult the public on those draft policies, recommendations..."*;
3. to *"...publish the results of the public consultations..."*; and
4. to *"...provide any advice to government..."* on policies and recommendations the Round Table deems appropriate.

This "What You Told Us" report will complete our third responsibility under the Act, that is *"to publish the results of public consultations."*

On behalf of the Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development and in particular the members of the Wildlife Panel, I would like to thank all those who have devoted their time and energy in the consideration of policies needed to ensure the sustainability of Manitoba's wildlife resources.

Your advice, suggestions and comments, whether in returned questionnaires, letters, submissions, presentations or workshop discussions, have been insightful. We will consider all of them when we prepare our final policy recommendations.

We are grateful for the assistance provided us by the staff of various departments of the provincial government, not only in developing the wildlife workbook but also in conducting workshops across the province.

Again thank you for your interest, participation, ideas and comments.

Sincerely

Jack Dubois,
Chair, Wildlife Panel
Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development

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What You Told Us

1. Introduction:

In March 1994, the Manitoba Government released its *Sustainable Development Strategy for Manitoba.* Based upon the recommendations of the Manitoba Round Table on Environment and Economy, this report established provincial sustainable development goals and outlined a framework for future policy development. The report also identified a series of specific economic, environmental, resource, human health and social policy component strategies to be prepared.

The Land and Water Component is one such strategy, under which the wildlife strategy falls.

The Sustainable Development Act, which received Royal Assent in June 1997 and came into force on July 1, 1998, formally established the Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development, formerly the Manitoba Round Table on Environment and Economy under section 4(1). Under section 7(4) of the Act, the Round Table is required:

1. to *"prepare, in consultation with the Interdepartmental Planning Board and departments, and publish draft policies, recommendations and proposed action plans in relation to...component strategies..."* as per our "Workbook on Wildlife";
2. to *"consult the public on those draft policies, recommendations..."*;
3. to *"...publish the results of the public consultations..."*; and
4. to *"...provide any advice to government..."* on policies and recommendations the Round Table deems appropriate.

Our Round Table has completed points one and two above. This report will complete our third responsibility under the Act, that is *"to publish the results of public consultations."*

Once we have completed point 4, the Manitoba Government will then consider our recommendations and:

- adopt provincial sustainable development wildlife policies, as it deems appropriate; and
- take steps to implement those policies.

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The Public Participation Process

1. Introduction

The Sustainable Development Act requires that the Manitoba Round Table consult the public on draft wildlife policies. To begin this public consultation process, a consultant was engaged to gain public input on issues related to provincial wildlife policies and management. The purpose was to collect information to help in the preparation of the "Workbook on Wildlife" by determining and evaluating the issues that should be addressed in a wildlife strategy.

Focus group discussions with stakeholders, business persons, Aboriginal community members and general public were conducted in Winnipeg, Brandon and Thompson, in May 1998.

The results of those discussions were used in the development of the workbook.

2. Our Consultation Plan

Following focus group consultations, the Manitoba Round Table determined that an overall consultation plan was required. The goal of this plan was to provide Manitobans with opportunities to participate meaningfully in the development of Manitoba's wildlife policy objectives, policies and recommended government actions.

A Manitoba Round Table Wildlife Strategy Panel was established to lead the consultations. Chaired by Jack Dubois, the panel included Manitoba Round Table members Jenny Hillard, Professor Thomas Henley, Christine Common-Singh, Maxime Plesiuk, Sandy Margetts, Bill Elliott, Alan Ransom and ex-officio member Herb Goulden formerly of Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation.

We agreed the wildlife consultation process would generally follow previous sustainable development strategy consultations and would include:

- a workbook with mail-in questionnaires,
- open house sessions and public workshops,
- formal presentations and
- submissions.

Our plan included:

- pre-workshop communications, and
- workshop, open house and public presentation communications.

3. Pre-workshop Communications

Pre-workshop communication activities included the preparation of a workbook and questionnaire, news releases, advertisements, radio and television spots, media interviews, posters, Internet Web site, community contacts and translation services.

Workbook / Questionnaire: "The Workbook on Wildlife" and "Wildlife Questionnaire" were released March 18, 1999 and immediately mailed to stakeholders throughout the province. Except in a few cases, the workbook was made available in communities where a workshop was scheduled, at least one month before the workshop. The questionnaire was developed as a convenient way for participants to provide written responses and comments. The questionnaire came with a self-addressed, stamped return envelope.

News Releases: The Manitoba Round Table issued a news release to all media in the province. The news release identified the locations and dates for the workshops and encouraged local participation. One week before the workshops, the Round Table forwarded a second news release to the local media.

Advertisements: Ads were placed in most local and community newspapers and included information on the workbook, our Internet site and a list of communities scheduled for workshops and times available for making presentations to the Panel. A second advertisement, reminding individuals of the workbook and workshop meeting locations and dates, was placed in the host community and surrounding community newspapers. Both the *Dakota Ojibway Drum* and *The Cree Nation* were used to announce the workshops to the First Nations of northern and southern Manitoba.

Mr. Ed Wood of EM Management Group produced an article titled the "Strategy for Fish and Wildlife Public Workshops." This article was published in the North Central Projects newsletter *CSA Reports* final issue. This newsletter, written in English, Oji-Cree and Cree was distributed to residents in northeastern Manitoba.

Wildlife Workshop Locations and Dates 1999	**Publication**	**Issue Date**
All Wildlife Workshop Locations	Winnipeg Free Press Winnipeg Sun La Liberte (French)	March 20 March 21 March 26
Dauphin – April 6	Dauphin Herald	March 23
Swan River – April 7	Swan River Star & Times	March 23
Brandon – April 12 / Neepawa – April 13	Brandon Sun Neepawa Banner Neepawa Press	April 3 April 3 March 29
Norway House – May 4 / Wabowden – May 5 / Thompson – May 11 / Churchill – May 12	Thompson Nickel Belt News Thompson Citizen	April 19 April 23
Winkler – May 20	Winkler Times Morden Times Carman Valley Leader Altona RR Valley Echo	May 3
Steinbach – May 27	Steinbach Carillon	May 17
Boissevain – June 1	Boissevain Recorder	May 19
Virden – June 2	Virden Empire Advance Virden Southwest Gazette	May 18 May 22
Russell – June 3	Russell Banner	May 18
All Locations – April 19 – June 10	Grassroots News	April 13
All Locations – April 12 – June 10	Weetamah The Drum	April 1 April 8
Arborg – April 19 / Ashern – April 20	Interlake Spectator	April 5
Flin Flon – April 26 / The Pas – April 27	Flin Flon Reminder Flin Flon Northern Visions Gazette The Pas Opasquia Times	April 16 April 16 April 14
Portage la Prairie - May 18	Portage Daily Graphic Portage Herald Leader Press	May 1 May 4
Winnipeg – May 19 / May 26	Winnipeg Free Press Winnipeg Sun Canadian Publishers (4 papers)	May 1 May 2 April 28
Pine Falls – May 25	Pine Falls Voice	May 6

Wildlife Workshop Locations and Dates 1999	Station	Schedule	Language	# of occs.
Dauphin – April 6 Swan River – April 7	Native Communications Inc.	April 1, 3 & 5 3x / day	English / Cree	9
Brandon – April 12 Neepawa – April 13	Native Communications Inc.	April 5 – 9 3x / day	English / Ojibway	15
Arborg – April 19 Ashern – April 20	Native Communications Inc.	April 12 – 16 3x / day	English / Ojibway	15
Flin Flon – April 26 The Pas – April 27	CFAR / CJAR – Flin Flon & The Pas Native Communications Inc.	April 21, 22 & 23 April 19 – 23 3x / day	English only English / Cree	9 15
Norway House – May 4 Wabowden – May 5	Native Communications Inc.	April 26 – 30 3x / day	English / Cree	15
Thompson – May 11 Churchill – May 12	Native Communications Inc. CHTM Thompson	May 3 – 7 May 6, 7 & 10 3x / day	English / Cree English only	15 9
Portage la Prairie – May 18 Winnipeg – May 19 Winkler – May 20	Native Communications Inc.	May 10 – 14 3x / day	English / Ojibway	15
Pine Falls – May 25 Winnipeg – May 26 Steinbach – May 27	Native Communications Inc.	May 17 – 21 3x / day	English / Ojibway	15
Steinbach – May 27	CHSM & 96.7 FM Steinbach	May 25 - 27 2x / day – Reach Plan	English	6
Boissevain – June 1 Virden – June 2 Russell – June 3	Native Communications Inc.	May 24 – 28 3x / day	English / Ojibway	15
Boissevain – June 1	CJRB (Boissevain)	May 30 – June 1 2x / day Reach Plan	English	6
Virden – June 2 Boissevain – June 1 & Russell – June 3	CKLQ Brandon CKX AM / FM Brandon	May 30 – June 1 3x / day May 30 – June 1 2x / day May 30-31 1x / day June 1	English	9 5
Russell – June 3	CKDM Dauphin	May 31 – June 2 2x / day	English	6
Ste. Theresa Point – June 8 Little Grand Rapids – June 10	Native Communications Inc.	May 31 – June 4 3x / day	English / Cree	15

Radio: Free public service announcement airtime was used when possible. In native and northern communities, citizen band radio (e.g., Native Communications Inc.) was used to promote the workshops. Announcements (up to three per day) were run for up to five days prior to community workshops. A number of announcements were made in the appropriate native language.

Television: In Aboriginal communities, community television stations were asked to promote the workshops through public service announcements as well as airing a video on the wildlife strategy. Produced in English and Oji-Cree, this video was also available for use in the workshops and to all media.

Media Interviews: The Wildlife Panel Chair was the spokesperson for the Manitoba Round Table. Arrangements were made with media outlets in various communities for interviews, talk shows and other activities to promote the workshops and encourage local participation. For example, Jack Dubois, Wildlife Panel Chair, participated in Native Communication Inc.'s call-in-program "The Circle Tree" to promote the public participation process for both the wildlife and fish strategy workshops.

Posters: Posters reminding people about the workshops were produced and distributed in various communities. Generally, community posters were distributed to a community contact or Natural Resources office two weeks prior to the workshops and then distributed in the community. The posters were also translated into Oji-Cree and Cree and sent to appropriate communities.

Internet: Information about the workbook was included on the Sustainable Development Coordination Unit's Web site. The Web site included the workbook, questionnaire, workshop dates and locations. The Web site was also linked to the Wildlife and Fisheries branches' Web site. Web site locations were included in the workshop advertisements. The questionnaire was available for downloading from the site.

Community Contacts: Employees from various provincial government departments helped to promote the strategy and encourage participation when possible. Key individuals in some communities were also approached to act as Manitoba Round Table liaisons. They undertook to personally invite or telephone individuals to attend the meeting in the community.

In Aboriginal communities, band chiefs were contacted to explain the workshop and consultation process and permission was requested to communicate with the band. Chiefs from bands surrounding the workshop location were also contacted.

An individual from the band, or someone they recommended, often served as a community liaison. They provided advice on meeting format, protocols, poster distribution, and suggested or made arrangements including identifying individuals to open and close meetings with a prayer, translation services and catering.

Translation Services: French translation was made available at workshops in Winnipeg. In other workshop locations, translation services were provided, if requested at least two weeks prior to the workshop. In Aboriginal communities, a translator from the community was available.

4. Workshop Communications

Workshop communication activities included open house sessions, opportunities to make presentations to the Panel prior to scheduled workshops, display panels and an introductory slide – video presentation.

Open Houses: Before each workshop (except in Winnipeg) the Manitoba Round Table hosted an open house where individuals could meet the panel members, view the workshop materials, pick up workbooks and generally discuss wildlife policies and issues with panel members and support staff.

Public Presentations: During the open house sessions, the Panel was available to hear and accept public presentations and submissions on the proposed wildlife policies. The one exception was in Winnipeg where a full day was set aside to hear public presentations.

Display Panels: Displays were developed for use at all open houses and workshops. These displays highlighted wildlife information and sustainability and the draft wildlife policies.

Slide - Video Presentation: A slide presentation and video giving background information on our wildlife strategy and draft policies was developed and used as an introduction to the workshop sessions.

Highlights

Public Participation

With the release and widespread distribution of the "Workbook on Wildlife" the Manitoba Round Table embarked on an ambitious public participation process. The hearings provided an opportunity for many individuals, organizations, communities, local government and business groups to make their views known. The Aboriginal community, environmental, agricultural, recreational, tourism and other sectors clearly expressed their concerns and interests.

During April, May and June 1999, the Manitoba Round Table's wildlife panel held 23 workshops / presentation sessions across Manitoba. Additionally, a meeting was held with Natural Resource Co-management Boards in Thompson, Manitoba.

During this consultation period, some 502 participants attended the workshops. The panel heard or received 39 formal presentations / submissions and 177 people sent in completed questionnaires.

From March 1999 to the end of January 2000, the wildlife workbook Web site received 949 hits.

Date 1999	Panel Members in Attendance	Workshops Location	Number of Participants
April 6	J.Dubois, H.Goulden	Dauphin	30
April 7	J.Dubois, H.Goulden, M.Plesiuk, C.Common-Singh	Swan River	53
April 12	J.Dubois, H.Goulden, S.Margetts, B.Elliott	Brandon	33
April 13	J.Dubois, H.Goulden, B.Elliott	Neepawa	27
April 14	Thompson - meeting with resource co-management boards		
April 19	J.Dubois, C.Common-Singh	Arborg	27
April 20	J.Dubois, C.Common-Singh	Ashern	53
April 26	J.Dubois, C.Common-Singh, J.Hillard	Flin Flon	13
April 27	J.Dubois, C.Common-Singh, J.Hillard	The Pas	22
May 4	J.Dubois, J.Hillard	Norway House	9
May 5	J.Dubois, J.Hillard	Wabowden	7
May 11	J.Dubois, C.Common-Singh, T.Henley	Thompson	12
May 12	J.Dubois, C.Common-Singh, T.Henley	Churchill	30
May 18	J.Dubois, H.Goulden, C.Common-Singh	Portage la Prairie	20
May 19	J.Dubois, H.Goulden, C.Common-Singh	Winnipeg	39
May 20	J.Dubois, H.Goulden, C.Common-Singh	Winkler	12
May 25	J.Dubois, C.Common-Singh, J.Hillard, L.Innes	Pine Falls	7
May 26	J.Dubois, C.Common-Singh	Winnipeg Presentations	12
May 27	J.Dubois, C.Common-Singh, L.Innes	Steinbach	11
June 1	J.Dubois, H.Goulden, B.Elliott, A.Ransom	Boissevain	4
June 2	J.Dubois, H.Goulden, B.Elliott, A.Ransom	Virden	9
June 3	J.Dubois, H.Goulden, B.Elliott, A.Ransom	Russell	26
June 8	J.Dubois, C.Common-Singh, T.Henley, G.Campbell	Ste. Theresa Point	18
June 29	D.Hatch*, C.Common-Singh	Little Grand Rapids	28
Total			**502**

*J. Dubois was unable to attend this workshop and David Hatch, Chair of the Manitoba Round Table's Fish Panel attended in his place.

Overview of Questionnaire Results

The following is the overall statistical results on the policies only from the 177 returned questionnaires.

Detailed statistical results on the policies and applications and public comments are presented in the next section of this report.

Policy	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Policy 1.1	97%	3%	0%
Policy 1.2	93%	5%	2%
Policy 1.3	93%	4%	3%
Policy 1.4	93%	6%	1%
Policy 1.5	75%	17%	8%
Policy 2.1	93%	4%	4%
Policy 2.2	42%	19%	38%
Policy 2.3	53%	13%	34%
Policy 2.4	64%	17%	20%
Policy 2.5	74%	12%	14%
Policy 2.6	92%	7%	4%
Policy 2.7	96%	3%	1%
Policy 3.1	81%	13%	6%
Policy 3.2	76%	15%	9%
Policy 3.3	66%	25%	9%
Policy 3.4	69%	21%	9%
Policy 3.5	74%	20%	4%
Policy 4.1	88%	11%	2%
Policy 4.2	87%	11%	2%
Policy 4.3	86%	10%	4%
Policy 4.4	90%	9%	2%
Policy 4.5	90%	7%	4%
Policy 4.6	88%	12%	1%
Policy 4.7	80%	16%	4%
Policy 5.1	84%	13%	3%
Policy 5.2	82%	15%	2%
Policy 5.3	88%	12%	0%
Policy 5.4	87%	12%	2%
Policy 5.5	85%	14%	0%
Policy 5.6	78%	18%	4%
Policy 6.1	96%	4%	0%

Policy	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Policy 6.2	93%	7%	1%
Policy 6.3	96%	4%	0%
Policy 6.4	84%	13%	3%
Policy 7.1	84%	11%	4%
Policy 7.2	82%	13%	6%
Policy 7.3	91%	8%	1%
Policy 7.4	95%	3%	2%
Policy 8.1	94%	4%	2%
Policy 8.2	96%	3%	2%
Policy 8.3	93%	6%	2%

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

The following shows the overall statistical results on Policy Area 9 - Wildlife Legislation and Administration from the 177 returned questionnaires.

Legislation Recommendations	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Recommendation 1	88%	12%	1%
Recommendation 2	93%	6%	1%
Recommendation 3a	92%	7%	1%
Recommendation 3b	93%	8%	0%
Recommendation 3c	87%	11%	2%
Recommendation 3d	89%	9%	2%
Recommendation 3e	76%	16%	8%
Recommendation 3f	88%	11%	2%
Recommendation 3g	89%	8%	3%
Recommendation 4a	88%	9%	2%
Recommendation 4b	81%	11%	8%
Recommendation 4c	88%	11%	2%
Recommendation 5	80%	8%	13%
Recommendation 6a	84%	13%	2%
Recommendation 6bi	89%	9%	2%
Recommendation 6bii	83%	15%	2%
Recommendation 6biii	82%	16%	3%
Recommendation 6biv	67%	25%	8%
Recommendation 6ci	86%	11%	3%
Recommendation 6cii	83%	12%	4%
Recommendation 6ciii	89%	10%	2%
Recommendation 6civ	86%	12%	2%
Recommendation 6cv	87%	12%	2%
Recommendation 6d	79%	17%	4%
Recommendation 6e	84%	15%	2%
Recommendation 7	80%	16%	5%
Recommendation 8a	90%	8%	2%
Recommendation 8b	90%	8%	2%
Recommendation 8c	88%	10%	2%
Recommendation 8d	82%	10%	8%
Recommendation 9	85%	12%	4%

Legislation Recommendations	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Recommendation 10	94%	6%	0%
Recommendation 11	94%	6% 0	%
Recommendation 12	95%	5%	0%
Recommendation 13a	91%	7%	2%
Recommendation 13b	87%	9%	4%
Recommendation 14a	66%	11%	23%
Recommendation 14b	50%	16%	33%
Recommendation 14c	67%	12%	21%
Recommendation 14d	48%	17%	35%
Recommendation 15	92%	6%	1%
Recommendation 16	73%	16%	12%
Recommendation 16a	78%	14%	9%
Recommendation 17	80%	14%	6%
Recommendation 18a	73%	14%	14%
Recommendation 18b	78%	16%	7%
Recommendation 18c	67%	20%	13%
Recommendation 19a	90%	7%	3%
Recommendation 19b	79%	10%	11%
Recommendation 20	91%	7%	1%
Recommendation 21	89%	9%	2%
Recommendation 22	88%	7%	5%
Recommendation 23	89%	9%	3%
Recommendation 24a	85%	9%	6%
Recommendation 24b	83%	11%	7%
Recommendation 25a	95%	4%	2%
Recommendation 25b	95%	4%	1%
Recommendation 25c	93%	6%	2%
Recommendation 25d	95%	4%	2%
Recommendation 26a	79%	10%	12%
Recommendation 26b	77%	11%	12%
Recommendation 26c	82%	8%	10%
Recommendation 27	93%	7%	1%
Recommendation 28	88%	10%	2%
Recommendation 28a	81%	15%	5%

Legislation Recommendations	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Recommendation 29a	97%	3%	1%
Recommendation 29b	87%	10%	3%
Recommendation 30a	78%	15%	8%
Recommendation 30b	83%	13%	4%
Recommendation 31	70%	22%	8%
Recommendation 32	85%	13%	2%
Recommendation 33	78%	10%	11%
Recommendation 34	93%	6%	1%
Recommendation 35a	93%	6%	1%
Recommendation 35b	96%	3%	1%
Recommendation 35c	98%	2%	0%
Recommendation 35d	96%	3%	1%
Recommendation 35e	91%	8%	1%
Recommendation 35f	96%	4%	1%
Recommendation 35g	96%	4%	1%
Recommendation 36a	78%	17%	5%
Recommendation 36b	75%	19%	6%
Recommendation 37	90%	7%	3%

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Public Comments

The comments provided here are feedback from returned questionnaires and from the workshop sessions.

Questionnaire Comments

The comments from the questionnaire are generally unedited with the exception of the deletion of names of individual persons and any inappropriate language.

The comments have been organized:

- by specific policy;
- by policy area;
- under the heading of "Questionnaire Additional Comments" (Note: Where an additional comment is also related to specific policy, it is repeated under that policy); and
- under the heading of "Comments on the Public Participation Process."

Workshop Comments

The comments obtained from the workshops have been divided into two categories:

- by "Group Workshop Comments," which are the comments recorded by participants, and
- by "Staff Workshop Notes," which are staff notes of participant discussions.

Policy Area 1. Environmental Enhancement and Protection

Wildlife habitat shall be protected to sustain wild animal and plant resources consistent with a system plan for wildlife.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

1.1a Partner with other organizations and cooperatively develop, enhance and maintain a provincial habitat inventory and monitoring program.

1.1b Partner with other organizations and develop and improve wildlife habitat protection and enhancement programs which would include provincial and regional targets for both private and Crown lands.

1.1c Partner and work cooperatively with private landowners, the Aboriginal and agricultural communities and non-government organizations, such as community round tables and provide mechanisms to encourage and facilitate the protection, maintenance or rehabilitation of natural habitats.

1.1d Ensure water quality and quantity objectives protect, maintain and enhance the integrity of natural ecosystems and wetland habitats.

1.1e Work with the public, industry, local government and stakeholders to develop and implement guidelines to anticipate, prevent or mitigate habitat fragmentation and its adverse effects.

1.1f Identify wild animal travel and migration corridors and, in consultation with industry, local government, Aboriginal and agricultural communities and private landowners, develop programs and legal mechanisms such as covenants and caveats to protect, maintain and enhance those corridors.

1.1g Partner and work cooperatively with industry, Aboriginal communities, local government, private landowners and the agricultural community to establish guidelines, practices and legislation to anticipate, prevent or mitigate the adverse effects of development on habitat from such activities as wild rice farming, game farming, forestry, mining, petroleum, hydro and urban developments, highways, drainage and agriculture.

1.1h Partner with the federal government and other jurisdictions to establish programs, guidelines and, if necessary, legislation to control the planned or accidental introduction of species.

1.1i Develop and implement programs, guidelines and, if necessary, legislation to control the transfer and relocation of species within Manitoba.

1.1j Develop and implement regulations, standards and guidelines for waste management and pollution control.

1.1k Maintain guidelines for the transfer and sale of Crown lands and prohibit the sale of Crown land significant or critical to wild plants and animals.

1.1l Make every effort to provide sufficient resources for and eliminate administrative barriers to the efficient and effective enforcement of wildlife legislation.

1.1m Establish or expand habitat restoration and habitat corridor acquisition programs.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 1.1

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Policy 1.1	97%	3%	0%
Application 1.1a	91%	8%	2%
Application 1.1b	92%	6%	2%
Application 1.1c	97%	3%	1%
Application 1.1d	97%	3%	0%
Application 1.1e	90%	8%	2%
Application 1.1f	87%	11%	2%
Application 1.1g	91%	8%	2%
Application 1.1h	88%	11%	1%
Application 1.1i	77%	15%	8%
Application 1.1j	93%	6%	1%
Application 1.1k	88%	6%	6%
Application 1.1l	91%	6%	3%
Application 1.1m	88%	9%	4%

- What is a "system plan"?
- This should all have been done!
- Only for threatened species.
- Due to dramatic variation in wildlife decline and in some areas increase, great care must be given to investigating specific regions when making decisions.
- As long as wildlife habitat protection areas do not exceed hunting areas.
- Add landowners, industry.
- Why not investigate the multitudinous areas of waste swamps and perhaps flood them to increase wetlands?
- Guidelines cannot "prevent" if this is a goal, other means needed, e.g., legislation, and that may not be palatable.
- Involve local residents to a greater extent in this area.
- The government must also consult or work cooperatively with the public on these matters. Working cooperatively with industry must not mean capitulating to the demands of industry. Consultations with industry must be open to public and public participation and meaningful public input. Ecological sustainability, wilderness qualities and social objectives must take precedence over any general economic benefits to a company or to Manitoba from any proposed development.
- Include such activities as pipelines.
- Habitat and development should have equal emphasis.
- Exotic species.
- It is extremely important that it be controlled by government.
- Relocation of species can overcome overpopulation in other areas.
- This item doesn't seem to belong in a wildlife strategy. It should be an over-riding criteria for all aspects of our life and activities in the province.
- Add enforce, this policy needs teeth!
- Not sell any Crown lands; Crown land sales should have to be made public or should go tender process so if you are going to sell Crown land you get maximum.

- What does "critical" really mean - do you understand?
- Who says the "Crown" is the best steward of these valuable lands?
- Make Crown land sale conditional on maintenance of a part of it as natural land, (i.e., unbroken).
- As long as it doesn't exceed the right to private ownership (C-68); versus state ownership. And guns for sport hunting.
- Too expensive, provide incentives to landowners.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Neepawa, Winnipeg and Dauphin.

- Who pays for the cost of re-establishing links between habitats or islands of habitat?
- Hunters need to be more willing to pay for the use of private lands to help support management strategies.
- There is an enormous opportunity for landowners for income from non-resident hunters.
- Direct more money from hunting licences to specific areas, i.e., federal migratory bird stamp-funnel money to areas where birds are produced.
- Conservation easements for more important habitats.
- Small areas important, i.e., yard sites.
- Increase hunting fees and earmark money to that resource, i.e., elk fees to elk management, deer fees to deer management. There is no sense in increasing licence fees if only a portion goes back to management.
- Ecotourism could be developed and expanded.
- Issues: Habitat definition should include farmland areas, boreal forests as well as wetland, riparian, aspen woods and native grassland whether privately-owned or Crown. Good water flow management is essential, e.g., install control gates to raise water tables and reduce rate of run-off flow. Wetlands (marshes, bogs, fens) hydrology should not be altered without a thorough environmental impact study unless the project is to restore damaged land to its former status. To protect habitats...from planned commercial or accidental species introduction... except: i) allow research to take place on a native species, ii) to allow movement of native species in the province to enhance the gene pool in further habitats, iii) introduction of additional game species (wild turkeys, pheasants, etc.) where competition with native species would not create problems, iv) dedicate resources to reduce the negative impact of undesirable non-native species (e.g., St. Johns Wort, purple loosestrife, zebra mussels, English sparrows), v) for habitat protections [?]...ok, vi) to establish connections... Establish new wildlife corridors between areas of habitat. Take strong action against farmers who destroy habitat on public road allowances; develop programs to encourage farmers to restore natural habitat on public road allowances. Designate such lands as wildlife corridors. Restrict the development of new roads by municipalities without appropriate environmental impact studies.
- NGO groups should include Manitoba Naturalists Society, Manitoba Wildlife Federation, etc.
- ...especially through unnecessary development of municipal road allowances (for wildlife corridors or wind breaks-soil conservation).
- Good!
- ...anticipate, prevent, or mitigate...
- Problems: 1. Reword to ...anticipate with a view to prevent or mitigate. 2. In addition to "mining," specify peat and gravel extraction.
- Or private citizens and organizations (i.e., not just government organizations).
- Add "...promote re-introduction of native species."
- Very important - pollution control.
- Don't know current guidelines.
- Agree should not sell Crown lands now allocated for wildlife management areas, or lease out for agricultural use.
- Transfer and sale of Crown lands -concerned and opposed.
- ...to include Provincial Parks and with appropriate cooperation where private lands are involved.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Ashern, Boissevain, Churchill, Thompson, Pine Falls, Wabowden, St. Theresa Point and Winkler.

- Agree that the number one policy should be sustainability.
- If we don't have habitat we won't have wildlife.
- Not the fault of the farmer, he is under many demands from government, the market etc.
- Should be help for sustaining habitat east of Churchill - without animals there is no tourist industry.
- Round Table must understand the impacts of destruction of habitat and wildlife.
- Requirement by northern communities to secure the land base.
- Must recognize that ecosystems are not static entities, always changing; concern about how terms like "protected" and "preserved" can be applied to such areas.
- Concern over spraying of forests.
- It's hard to sustain wildlife with Hydro and other kinds of development.
- There is a problem with planting wild rice, it's blocking the rivers.
- Chemical use needs to be tightly controlled.
- Against sale of Crown land.
- Encourage the acquisition, maintenance, establishment of habitat and lands for wildlife.

SUGGESTED POLICY 1.2:

Critical and significant habitats, essential to the sustainability of wildlife species, shall be identified, designated and protected under authority of legislation.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

1.2a Define, identify and designate critical and significant habitats such as migration routes, calving areas, denning areas, staging areas, wintering areas, mineral licks, and moulting areas, foraging areas (e.g., shore birds on tidal estuaries), roosting areas and dancing grounds (e.g., sharp-tailed grouse).

1.2b Ensure social, cultural and economic considerations are evaluated and addressed during the evaluation of lands being considered as designated wildlife lands.

1.2c Develop and implement a plan for designated wildlife lands, that is, lands identified for wild animal and plant purposes under legislation, which will:

a. define protection requirements and appropriate land designations,

b. outline a land use zoning process and establish land use zones for designated lands,

c. establish land management guidelines,

d. provide for habitat monitoring, inventory and analysis.

1.2d Control and, where appropriate, restrict or ban development on designated wildlife lands.

1.2e Establish and improve programs in partnership with local authorities, non-government organizations, such as community round tables, businesses, the agricultural community, industry, the Aboriginal community and individuals for the protection and management of critical and significant wildlife habitat through appropriate mechanisms, i.e., publicizing critical and significant habitat locations for all municipalities to be used in local development plans, incentives to private landowners and farmers or co-management agreements.

1.2f Continue to require public and provincial government departmental review of areas proposed for designation and protection under legislation.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 1.2

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Policy 1.2	93%	5%	2%
Application 1.2a	92%	7%	1%
Application 1.2b	76%	14%	9%
Application 1.2ca	87%	13%	1%
Application 1.2cb	73%	23%	4%
Application 1.2cc	90%	8%	2%
Application 1.2cd	88%	11%	1%
Application 1.2d	88%	8%	5%
Application 1.2e	94%	4%	2%
Application 1.2f	90%	9%	1%

- They should not exceed hunting areas.
- On public lands.
- Significant habitats - how defined?
- Here again-involve knowledgeable local residents who are known to be involved in wildlife and have shown interest.
- Human considerations should not take precedence.
- If environment is critical to wellness of all species, it follows that critical habitat needs protection to provide social and economic well-being.
- designated wildlife lands – unclear, i.e., does this eliminate farmland as being considered habitat?
- First Nations should have to follow regulations laid out as should everyone else!
- Equal emphasis to hunting and designated wildlife lands.
- Too general.
- In a cost-effective manner, including use of volunteers.
- There should also be control, restriction or ban on developments (i.e., certain types) immediately adjacent to designated wildlife lands. Some development adjacent to wildlife lands could be impediments to the integrity of the wildlife land.
- Essential, we must be in recovery mode.
- I agree providing that the land is Crown. Private land development should remain under discretion of landowner.
- A very vague statement. To "control…development" means logging, mining, etc. can still take place, as long as it is "controlled." No such development should take place in national and provincial parks and other "wildlife" areas.
- As long as equality is given to hunting areas versus designated wildlife lands.
- As long as the hunting rights of non-landowners are not forgotten.
- Seek cooperation with landowners first.
- Not Round Table set up.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern and Dauphin.

- Agree with this section (except for 1.2b).
- Under authority of legislation-almost universally opposed to compulsory decisions.
- Must be compensation for any private land but Crown land should be protected.
- Don't agree with this.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comment was recorded at the workshop in Ashern.

- Drop economic consideration from 1.2b.

SUGGESTED POLICY 1.3:

Endangered ecosystems and habitats essential to the protection of species at risk, including endangered and threatened species, shall be preserved, protected and, if required, designated under legislation.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

1.3a Identify endangered ecosystems and habitats and prepare management plans and strategies for their designation and protection.

1.3b Continue to protect tall-grass and mixed-grass prairie through designation and management.

1.3c Partner and work cooperatively with landowners, the Aboriginal and agricultural communities, community round tables, industry and local government in the development of programs, incentives, co-management agreements and land use practices to protect:

a. the habitat of at-risk wild animal and plant species, and

b. endangered habitats.

1.3d Continue to require public and provincial government departmental review of endangered ecosystems and habitats of species at risk proposed for designation and protection under legislation.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 1.3

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Policy 1.3	93%	4%	3%
Application 1.3a	93%	5%	1%
Application 1.3b	90%	9%	2%
Application 1.3ca	95%	4%	1%
Application 1.3cb	95%	5%	0%
Application 1.3d	93%	5%	1%

- As long as the protection of endangered habitats doesn't exceed hunting areas.
- On public lands.
- Why not also include aspen parkland?
- Isn't this covered under 1.3a – i.e., why single out over other plant communities, e.g., wetlands, peatlands etc.
- Too late.
- Land use practice can be influenced by agricultural policy set by government. The impact of these policies needs to be assessed before implementation.
- No more Round Tables. Do not work!
- As in reference to ecosystem, I think in a certain way its all living space is amazing. I'm sure feeling effects of Earth.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at workshops in Ashern and Dauphin.

- Agree.
- Ok for Crown land-policy too definite in compulsory conditions.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at the workshop in Russell.

- Endangered species and landowners - issue is that landowners may be expected to cover costs for protection.
- There needs to be incentive programs or take away dis-incentives to encourage protection of endangered species.
- Endangered species shouldn't be a burden to landowners.

SUGGESTED POLICY 1.4: ***Degraded or damaged habitats shall, where practical, be rehabilitated or restored.***

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

1.4a Establish an inventory of degraded or damaged habitats with significant potential for wild animals and plants and prioritize their need for rehabilitation or restoration.

1.4b Require, where appropriate, rehabilitation plans to be prepared and implemented upon decommissioning of developments.

1.4c Partner and work cooperatively with resource industries, the agricultural community, individuals, public utilities, the Aboriginal community and local authorities to develop rehabilitation and reclamation plans for degraded or damaged private lands.

1.4d Address the adverse effects of habitat fragmentation in the planning of rehabilitation projects.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 1.4

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Policy 1.4	93%	6%	1%
Application 1.4a	88%	10%	1%
Application 1.4b	80%	20%	1%
Application 1.4c	85%	12%	4%
Application 1.4d	85%	12%	3%

- Restoration plans should recognize the needs of early successional species of wildlife, including bare ground, "weedy patches," "blow-outs," ditches, trails etc.
- I agree with restoration, however I do not believe this should take priority of prior attention. Where there are visibly declining species, you will probably find declining habitat ranks about third.
- I have an issue with this. The question is how do we know if they are destroyed or damaged if baseline information on that habitat is lacking? Need baseline data acquisition inventory studies.
- I often wonder if it's from a lot of human ignorance. To a certain point, as some private lands aren't looked after. A lot of landowners use products which may cause more harm than good. Maybe without realizing it could be harmful.
- You'd be pretty busy reclaiming all worked land which was once purely habitat.
- If business doesn't want to rehabilitate, do it and charge them for it.
- Rehabilitation plans should be part of the development license and responsibility is on the developer, not Department of Natural Resources.
- Implies only rehab when development complete – what about mitigation to remove some of impacts ongoing?
- Mandatory.
- Make it easier to understand.
- It may be necessary to prepare legislation which sets out rehabilitation plans on damaged private lands for industries.
- As stated, to work co-operatively with industries. From past experience it usually is industry dictating or disregarding the need for wildlife habitat and rehabilitation. Perhaps the government should see that industry adheres to rules and regulations more seriously. We should not fear reprisal, for in the future we will pay for turning a blind eye for fear industry will leave our province. Better they leave now than after the destruction.
- Landowner responsibility. If Louisiana Pacific harvests on private land, the landowner should be responsible for ensuring by contract how the landscape is to be left upon completion of work. On municipal or Crown land, regulations should be in effect as to how the job should be completed.
- Some habitat can't be resolved.

Group Workshop Comments

The following comment was made at the workshop in Dauphin.

- 100% in agreement-cooperative agreements with landowners, natives, etc.

SUGGESTED POLICY 1.4:

Habitat may be altered to enhance productive capacity for wild animals and plants or assist in the maintenance of species.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

1.5a Establish criteria and circumstances under which habitat may be altered.

1.5b Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of habitat alteration projects.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 1.5

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Policy 1.5	75%	17%	8%
Application 1.5a	79%	14%	7%
Application 1.5b	81%	14%	5%

- Must be careful that other plants / animals aren't put in danger by altering habitats for other species maintenance.
- Modifications should encourage multiple succession stages and a natural diversity of biotic communities; not just habitat "improvements" for selected species, e.g., recreational wildlife. Ecosystem and biodiversity are critical factors. All other factors are secondary.
- This is generally taking place at the expense of other species, unless it is a provincially endangered species it should not happen. Our human short sightedness in the past has been unable to see the whole picture.
- Fine, as long as it does not simply mean creating habitat for big game or waterfowl (to be hunted) only.
- We feel as a group that policy is a little too vague. We would like to know how and by whom the decision is made.
- Only if it can be proven to be beneficial to wildlife.
- Not if the only reason is to create jobs. If the homework has been done properly, monitoring should be minimal.

Group Workshop Comments

The following comment was made at the workshop in Dauphin.

- 100% in favour-cooperative agreements with landowners.

General Questionnaire Comments on Policy Area 1

- Habitat loss has been over-exaggerated. The problem to elk and moose is native over-hunting.
- Agricultural runoff into lakes and rivers is uncontrolled and should be legislated. Cattle operations and fertilizer / chemical runoff are the worst areas. Programs to establish buffer zones around lakes and rivers should be increased.
- I strongly believe we must protect our wildlife and their homes. Leave it the way nature intended... and protect that environment.
- Wetlands need protection urgently! Far too many have been drained already. They contain many rare plants and animals as well as their role in flood prevention, aquifer recharge, climate moderation and cleaning the air we breathe. At least 10% of sphagnum bags for instance should be set aside in this province.
- Environmental protection and enhancement is an urgent requirement for all living organisms on the planet - cannot be overemphasized. The province will need to be extra vigilant given the weak response of the federal government especially in the protection of habitat for at-risk species.
- I agree that wildlife habitation in Manitoba continues to decrease. It is the government's responsibility to see that this trend stops and is eventually reversed. Farmers are mainly to blame for most of this loss of habitat. However, farmers are continually in a financial squeeze, and they continue to clear land and drain wetlands in an effort to survive. The government must provide financial incentives to farmers to leave wildlife habitat alone, or in cases where it is already destroyed, the government should pay farmers to restore this habitat. If the government doesn't do this, most habitats in prime farming areas will be destroyed.
- Wildlife habitat should be considered first before any environmental changes be implemented. However, once removed or altered no further changes should occur to the habitat of that species.
- Public access should still be permitted no matter what we are doing to enhance the habitat. After all isn't that what we are doing it for? So many times when we are trying to protect something we close it down to the public completely and all that does is create hard feelings and misunderstandings.
- These habitats that are identified, designated and protected. The same laws should apply to all persons including Aboriginals.
- Difficult to imagine anyone with some knowledge of wildlife and habitat to have answers much different than mine. This should be direction of government to move on these things.
- Every day habitat is lost in agricultural Manitoba. Control must be implemented soon.
- To establish an inventory of degraded or damaged habitats for wildlife and plants we need to do a land use study for the Manigotagan area. There are a lot of areas that have to be identified for protection and rehabilitation, both land and water quality. We need money from Manitoba Model Forest to do this study. The Manigotagan community is just as important as Pine Falls or the Indian Reserves that already gets lots of federal dollars to look after their people. "What about us?"
- The killing of animals and birds and over-fishing of all species is not under control in North America. Special treaties - poaching - destruction of forests - including clear cutting resulting in water damage during rain - run off-seasons. There is very little control of RV's, boats, motors, driving in from USA, and other provinces, to Manitoba. Species of fish not suitable to Manitoba can be introduced - drive - in areas not policed properly. More resource staff - wardens, should be put on staff. Compulsory garbage controls and "clean up" plus strong penalties for infectious contamination/contaminates.
- How will the habitat be altered? No specific definitions - very open policies, can mean anything, or turned around by the government any way they want.
- Guidelines and projects should be planned with both existing habitats and neighbours around it, so there is no conflict but all should work in harmony.
- I think the policies in area 1 are sound environmental management policies and should be pursued as such.
- We should not alter natural habitat to promote wildlife or plants that were not natural to the area. We can return habitat to its original form, i.e., from fields back to forest.

- I strongly support effective positions and procedures to protect and to support our habitat for wildlife.
- The Manitoba government "must" manage the forests of central and northern Manitoba to protect and maintain the fur bearing animals, e.g., marten and fisher, that are critical for the survival of a trapper. To date the government has a poor record, e.g., clear cutting policy with little or no stripe or block of forest to sustain fur bearers. Very little consideration is given to trappers, only the large logging companies.
- My concern is the cost to provide these programs.
- To enforce legislation that is presently on the books, i.e., the degradation of habitat on road allowances! Should a federal statue be the only saving grace for the Assiniboine River down stream from Brandon, i.e., fish stocks.
- Wildlife habitat should be protected at all costs.
- Rather too much emphasis is currently given to tall-grass prairie. This is largely a remnant ecosystem and other habitats support a much wider range of species. Habitat alteration should be a last ditch measure as we rarely possess the wisdom we think we do.
- Defining, protecting and developing standards and guidelines are by far a priority in my mind. Work with what we now have, take good stock, keep good records. There will be a time later on to alter, too much on your plates will equal only half successes.
- Should not introduce new species - need to look after those that occur naturally. Re: endangered habitat and species; there must be a point in time to recognize mistakes, our inability to fix the mistake and throw in the towel. Rehabilitation must be included when evaluating economic benefits.
- Current environmental protection pressures are more important than environmental "enhancement" measures. Realistically, unless the budget of the Wildlife Branch increases significantly, it is more important and cheaper to protect what we have rather than spending money to try to enhance habitat.
- Habitat is the key to keeping wildlife and plants around for future peoples.
- All areas seem to be agreeable but I will stress... work with all user groups on and around all habitat areas.
- Economic considerations must be considered before designating legislating wildlife lands.
- We need to protect our natural resources but there has to be a balance between the needs of wildlife and the people living on the land. The extinction of some species is a natural part of evolution. Preservation of habitat should be voluntary in partnership with wildlife groups and landowner, and legislation should only be used as last resort and only for specific wildlife deemed important by everyone not just a few biologists or bureaucrats.
- According the one good source, Canada is losing one area of forest every 15 seconds. Right or wrong, if that is only partially true, our environment is inevitably going to be lost forever. I am in favor of protecting all the wildlife habitat we have left and reclaiming deserted or damaged lands. This would definitely be a big push in the right direction towards saving our wildlife and its habitat.
- Especially for endangered species, protection of habitat essential to survival of species shall take preference over all other reasons, especially development in any way regardless of political affiliations or race, etc. Tax credits could be given to private landowners who provide unspecified acreage for habitat with absolutely no hunting or trapping allowed unless a species becomes a nuisance by over population.
- Guidelines don't work, i.e., wildlife guidelines can't be enforced. Make it law!
- Original habitat preserved; evaluate habitat existence and if problem arises re: industry etc. - consider the species and the circumstance that would affect or alter that habitat (extinct etc.).
- Lands sold or leased (Crown land) should be monitored to ensure it's stability environmentally as well as habitat and the ecosystem involved. As well as pollution control and water systems pertaining to the surrounding area. Migration, spawning, mating, grazing areas should be in high consideration and protection. Flora and fauna included.
- Funding?
- While wildlife cannot exist without proper habitat, does Natural Resources have the knowledge and experience to properly judge the intricacies of habitat management and alteration? I think not.

- I strongly believe in habitat preservation and / or enhancement. However we must be careful to never forget that humans are part of the ecosystem, not some spectator on the sidelines and that a lot of habitat is privately owned and that the landowners' rights must always be respected and protected. Things should be done weighted to having landowners cooperation, never to legislating rules to make things more difficult for landowners. Cooperation is the theme.
- Under no circumstance should any culture take precedence over wildlife.
- The concern on zoning is that wildlife zones be closed permanently. However, if there is a need to close an area till wildlife and habitat can recover, then that zone should re-open to the public.
- Through proactive management of hunting areas, ensure that a fully open hunting area is never completely closed, if indeed a staged or graded draw system will accomplish the same objective.
- There are marginal Crown lands that are quite fragile being leased and fenced by some farmers (rural municipality of North Cypress) for cattle grazing, at best these lands support few cattle, and the areas would be much better utilized for wildlife and hiking. Areas not fenced and grazed have a relative abundance of crocus and wildflowers. The grazed areas are bare and overgrazed.
- Existing wildlife acres should be opened up for grazing under supervised program.
- All lands must remain available for all natural resource users. Decisions and management should be by natural resources managers with input from the natural resource users.
- Much of this policy duplicates existing legislation or initiatives. For instance protection of lands on habitat should be coordinated with Endangered Species program to ensure that habitat and features protection is covered by the same protected area wherever possible. Eventually the north will be so well protected that it will become a museum. Habitat alteration to enhance productive capacity could be dangerous as it could upset the normal balances of nature. Examples are snow geese population explosion, potential upsetting of rabbit / fox balance.
- Through proactive management of hunting areas, ensure that a fully open hunting area is never completely closed, if indeed a staged or graded draw system will accomplish the same objective.
- In almost every case where wildlife are threatened, it is man who has caused it to happen. When are we going to realize we are part of the system?
- Protection can't be so rigid as to prohibit resource use or other economic development.
- In order to begin to preserve habitats and protect wildlife, a full inventory on all suggested policy areas must be acquired. The information can then be viewed and analyzed to make the most critical and more feasible decisions.
- More land must be purchased (and not sold) in order to increase certain wildlife species (i.e., sharptails) and increase wildlife recreation. The Department of Natural Resources should increase the amount of Crown land and wildlife habitat reserves. There are many pockets of woodlots on agricultural land which should be protected because they sustain certain wildlife populations. Too many woodlots are being destroyed to increase agricultural yields. There is a lack of education!
- A major omission in this section was that there was no distinction made between habitat conservation on public land vs. private land. The 2 cases are so different that such a distinction is mandatory. The use of market incentives needs to be included and the application of regulation must be discouraged. This section must be re-worked.
- Proactive management of Wildlife Management Areas would set better examples for public. Simply setting aside land is not optimizing the benefits of the land.
- The important thing is to set aside a variety of habitats. All the policies in the world won't help if that isn't done.
- I strongly agree with the policies, however resource limitations (money and time) will not permit everything possible to be done to carry out the policies.
- Your inventory was supposed to be done by a C.L.I . 1965-75. Where was the government when drainage was rampant (agricultural potholes)? An ounce of prevention is worth a ton of cure in the case of habitat. We must assume we don't know what occurs in an

acre of marsh or woodland. We could study it for 50 years and still not know. This section is a bureaucratic smoke and mirror show.

- There does not "seem" to be reference to, or consideration of taking farm land out of production, re-planting trees and grass lands for wildlife habitat. There is no reference to eliminating burning ditches, fence lines, slough bottoms or restrictions to farmers clearing land. All I've heard of US "Conservation Reserve Program Land" should be investigated as well as section 1.
- Wildlife Management Areas must remain accessible to "all" Manitobans, campers, hikers, berry pickers and hunters! Wildlife Management Area should not be allowed to be developed to any extent. Grazing must not be allowed on Wildlife Management Areas nor any other agricultural concerns.
- Long-term wildlife management should be carefully maintained, with equal consideration being given to economic changes that may be caused with people living in said areas.
- The italicized comment on the RHS of pg. 17 may require some clarification. The phrase "is just as" implies the effects are the same, both in quality and quantity, which likely is untrue, in this metaphorical statement. The use of the word "devastating" seems overly dramatic in the context of the format.
- It is important to note it is not only the tall grass prairie habitat which is threatened and warrants protection in Manitoba. Tundra is provincially rare and restoration much more time affected than that of prairie. Restoration of degraded habitat must be legislated, this must be more stringent. Take a hard line.
- No habitat enhancement for single species without looking at an ecosystem view...how will this affect all the other species?
- Rehabilitation of damaged habitats may not be cost-effective; perhaps the scarce money available should be used to protect, conserve existing, remaining important areas.
- Research will need to be done beforehand in regards to altering habitat. Make sure it doesn't make things worse!
- Control poachers! I think it would be an advantage to post more signs in certain areas so now people would have a clearer knowledge of where they're allowed to go. Also maybe we should consider that seeing as we have immigrants, and many speak another language, until they learn English, to paint them in different language, maybe more pictures, so it's not so hard. Maybe also there could be, say different colours of plastic strips to make routes easier to follow, so no one gets lost or confused and to put flashing signs on main routes at night.

General Group Workshop Comments on Policy Area 1

The following are general comments on Policy Area 1 made at the workshops in Arborg, Brandon, Dauphin and Winnipeg.

- Habitat Conservation.
- Concern about the opening of wildlife management areas to grazing. Don't want it.
- Hunters are a dying breed. Too many regulations.
- Harassment of hunters by game wardens.
- Hunters are the first to notice and to deal with problems with wildlife, e.g., deer feeding, water conservation (Ducks Unlimited).
- Access to Crown lands.
- Concern about posting of land and access to private land buffer zone of trees. Farmers should be encouraged to leave bluffs.
- Habitat: Everything works together. We're all part. Better approach to drainage. Some land should be left untouched, not drained.
- Farming: More focus on crop management, erosion. Chemical use.
- Shoreline management: Ownership of the resource, who is responsible, federal, provincial, municipal.
- Forestry industry: Pulp and paper. Reforestation. More recycling, less trees cut down for paper.
- Waste dump management: More recycling. Oil recycling.

- Fine the big violators: Road side spraying should be reduced and eliminated. Mega hog industry and the manure and barns being built in marginal agricultural swampy areas. Conflict of agriculture and non-agriculture. Much more discussion needs to be done to determine the concerns. Rails to trails, like to see that. Off-road usage of Crown land, more focus on designated trails. Like to see money from licenses go back to the industry. Harassing of hunters by game wardens.
- 1.a to 1.e all mean the same thing.
- Agree 1-sustainability, 2-Aboriginal, 3-resident, 4-commercial.
- Restore areas damaged to original.
- Where is funding coming from? Monies available from Mines Branch.
- Resources not available/management and control.
- Wildlife Management Area's more important to municipalities than using same land for industry.
- Crown land cheaper for natural resources to be acquired.
- Government subsidies for cleared land caused farmers to clear more land.
- Shelter belt is a good thing.
- Agro-Crown land for sale to lessee.
- "Point-122 miles at Carberry. Sold from public."
- Should be controlled better. Inform the general public.
- Concern that natives gaining Crown land and buying private land. Taking large areas away from Manitobans.
- Require a detailed set of rules for using Crown land, leased or otherwise.
- Generally in favour of all points on pp.14 & 15. To protect and manage all habitat.
- In cooperation with private landowner.
- Opposed to compulsory legislation.
- In favour of incentives for landowners to maintain habitat but policies almost always opposite — assessments up.
- No one opposed to connections between habitats — many examples of wildlife now travelling across country.
- The province, industry, Canada, First Nations and other resource users establish regional committees to conserve, manage and sustain wildlife and wildlife habitat, in the different sectors of Manitoba.
- The province should hold workshops in First Nations communities because policies like the sustainable development workbooks affect treaty and Aboriginal rights.
- First Nations want to manage their own territories regarding wildlife and wildlife habitat.
- First Nations are interested in business ventures, e.g., elk farming, buffalo farming, forestry ventures, etc.
- Desire to set aside from development representative areas of habitat but subject to management, particularly in Provincial Parks.
- Promote education so that environmental damage is not inadvertent due to ignorance...e.g., signage along trails in parks describing what may be harvested (e.g., certain berries) and what must not be disturbed (wild flowers).

Policy Area 2: Allocation and Supply

SUGGESTED POLICY 2.1:

The sustainability of wild animal and plant populations shall be the first priority in the allocation of wildlife resources.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

2.1a Establish, in consultation with the public, industry, the Aboriginal, agricultural and scientific communities, community round tables and stakeholders, wild animal population targets that ensure the sustainability of managed species including species at risk.

2.1b Enhance, maintain or reduce wild animal populations to ensure their sustainability in relation to available habitat, carrying capacity and established population targets.

2.1c Continue to establish and regulate annual sustainable harvest levels.

2.1d Continue through regulation, to minimize the adverse disturbance of wild animals, with particular consideration for species at risk.

2.1e Continue to prohibit the harvest of wild animals and plants and control other activities during times and in locations critical to the sustainability of species.

2.1f Regularly monitor the status of harvested species, indicator species and designated species at risk to identify threats to sustainability, such as increased public access, and take actions to prevent, eliminate or mitigate those threats.

2.1g Partner and work cooperatively with other governments and non-government agencies to ensure the sustainability of trans-boundary species by:

a. clarifying jurisdictional responsibility respecting the care of migratory species;

b. developing and implementing interprovincial, national and international agreements;

c. creating and participating in interprovincial, national and international management committees;

d. sharing information with agencies and governments outside of Manitoba.

2.1h Partner and work cooperatively with local Aboriginal communities, industry, the agricultural community, groups and organizations to maintain agreed upon population targets.

2.1i Establish partnerships, undertake and encourage research to improve tools for sustaining populations and establishing harvest levels.

2.1j For dead wild animals, which have come into possession of government, maintain a process for allocating and distributing parts for scientific, Aboriginal and educational uses.

2.1k Work with the Aboriginal community to develop alternative wildlife management strategies through the use of traditional ecological knowledge.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 2.1

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Policy 2.1	93%	4%	4%
Application 2.1a	91%	5%	3%
Application 2.1b	89%	7%	4%
Application 2.1c	98%	2%	1%
Application 2.1d	94%	6%	1%
Application 2.1e*	0%	0%	0%
Application 2.1f	96%	4%	0%
Application 2.1ga	90%	10%	0%
Application 2.1gb	88%	7%	4%
Application 2.1gc	87%	11%	1%
Application 2.1gd	91%	7%	1%
Application 2.1h	90%	5%	4%
Application 2.1i	91%	8%	1%
Application 2.1j	72%	16%	12%
Application 2.1k	65%	18%	17%
*Application missed in questionnaire			

- Pleased to see that sustainability of wildlife and ecosystems takes precedence over all other Aboriginal and "white" demands.
- Should be legal commitment, not policy to be debated. Legislation should also designate areas that policy will address. I want the choice as an elector to vote on this as government position not natural resources policy.
- Target population levels should be set scientifically not through consultation.
- The public must be allowed to attend and participate in all pertinent meetings held between the government and industry.
- Not through trapping of elk for agricultural purposes.
- Not through live trapping of elk.
- Someone should regulate, or at least monitor, uncontrolled or sustenance harvest.
- Will never be controlled.
- Tough regulations. Big fines!
- Interprovincial agreements such as non-resident tags, etc. is a good idea. Things that become law in other provinces should not affect the nation as a whole. E.g., just because Ontario was stupid enough to give up the spring bear hunt does not mean Manitoba should follow suit.
- Not work with Aboriginals. They are more interested in themselves than any species.
- It is unclear to me why it appears that Aboriginal communities should have priority consultation and input. Wildlife belongs to everyone equally as a resource.
- And landowners - industry should include agriculture, especially grazers, trappers and outfitters.
- Or to food institutions, kitchens if not diseased.
- Non-aboriginals should have the right to keep accidental road kills.
- Non-aboriginals should be able to keep accidental road kill.

- Feed poor people as well, instead of throwing out meat, fish!
- To overcome idea of hunting for food not profit selling especially all year round. Limit per head, family, e.g., tag per family per time frame.
- Traditional ecological knowledge is grossly exaggerated, at least insofar as it is having any practical benefit in how Aboriginals are currently managing their wildlife use activities.
- Traditional ecological knowledge needs some form of peer review to validate its authenticity. Further, such knowledge may have been accurate in the past (hence the development of traditions), but may be of little use in light of new environments, etc. Even traditional ecological knowledge must be adaptive.
- We as a group agree that Aboriginal communities must maintain agreed upon population targets.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at workshops in Ashern and Winnipeg.

- We would suggest that the province act quickly to preserve wildlife populations when the animals are in peril and then put future hunts at risk. E.g., remove the two-tag system for deer after a very tough winter.
- Concern on excessive request of Aboriginal harvest and use. Who will oversee distribution of resource.
- We feel that accidental and road-killed animals and songbirds should be allowed to be utilized be it mounted, or donated to an organization or user group of the finder's choice including him / herself under special permit; should the circumstances be legitimate as to possession then the permits should be more easily granted; if the possession is suspicious then action of a punitive nature should be taken.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Churchill, Thompson, Wabowden and Virden.

- More emphasis should be given to protection than hunting.
- Concerns about over-exploitation – hunting by Aboriginal peoples.
- Concerned about future wildlife populations.
- Hunting by Treaty Indians is out of control.
- Resources must be protected for the grandchildren.
- Concern over caribou populations.
- Too many deer.

SUGGESTED POLICY 2.2:

Aboriginal treaty and constitutional obligations shall be the second priority in the allocation of wild animal resources.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

2.2a Partner and work cooperatively with the Aboriginal community to identify cultural, religious and traditional use requirements.

2.2b Manage wild animal resources to meet Aboriginal harvest and use requirements.

2.2c Prohibit non-aboriginal harvest of wild animals where the entire harvest is required to meet Aboriginal treaty and constitutional domestic requirements.

2.2d Establish mechanisms such as management agreements with Aboriginal communities to ensure local wild animal resources optimize benefits to the community [e.g., co-management agreements].

2.2e Provide for the exchange of information with the Aboriginal community on such topics as:

a. rights and obligations of Aboriginal and non-aboriginal people,

b. sustainability of the wild animal resource,

c. harvest rates,

d. best management and harvest practices,

e. species at risk.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 2.2

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Policy 2.2	42%	19%	38%
Application 2.2a	24%	19%	14%
Application 2.2b	41%	16%	42%
Application 2.2c	31%	12%	58%
Application 2.2d	67%	14%	20%
Application 2.2ea	77%	14%	9%
Application 2.2eb	85%	7%	8%
Application 2.2ec	82%	10%	8%
Application 2.2ed*	0%	0%	0%
Application 2.2ee	85%	9%	6%
*Application missed in questionnaire			

- Treat all Manitobans and Canadians as equals. Licensing and harvesting regulations should apply equally to all. Hunting regulations and laws should be the same for all citizens. Seasons, limits and rules should apply to everyone. Crown lands should be retained for all Canadians and not unilaterally be handed over to special interest groups for their exploitation.
- 3rd Priority.
- I believe that non-regulated Aboriginal hunting is a big mistake. How can management practices be effective if there is no way of monitoring how many animals are harvested? The majority of Aboriginal hunters are hunting for sport just like the residents. They don't require the meat to survive. In cases when remote reserves are practicing historic practices, i.e., living off the land, it is a different story. When you get natives from Ontario coming to Manitoba to hunt elk there is something wrong. If they are allowed to continue there must be a way of monitoring their harvest. I was born in this country and am a true Canadian but I am being treated as if I am not. There should be one set of laws for all - no discrimination!
- Why is the allocation of wild animal resources an issue here? The First Nations hunt where they want, when they want. As far as I'm concerned everybody already knows the constitutional rights of everybody concerned. This policy is a waste of time and money!
- Since Aboriginal people have been located on reserves that are among the poorest sites for resources in the province, they should have first rights to sustainable allocations. Their need is great.
- Should be of equal priority with 2.3 so that both groups can work to sustain wildlife populations. All Canadian citizens should have equal access to wildlife use.
- Conflict with 2.2c, you had better be prepared to challenge federal treaties on this.
- Aboriginal treaty rights should no longer be existent when it comes to the allocation of wild animal resources. It's time the Aboriginals bought licenses, hunted in the rest of the resident seasons, the same as all the other residents of Manitoba. It is time to end this two class citizenship in regards to wild animal resources. One cannot develop a comprehensive wildlife policy with two classes of citizens in any given region, province or otherwise.
- Should be legal commitment, not policy to be debated. Legislation should also designate areas that policy will address. I want the choice as an elector to vote on this as government position not natural resources policy.
- This should apply only to Crown lands, not private lands.
- Allocation of wildlife for hunting and trapping should be second priority while Aboriginal treaty and constitutional obligations should be third priority.
- Only in remote inaccessible areas should natives have priority over residents for wildlife harvest. A lot of Manitobans depend on wild meat to survive as well as our natives. If our wildlife numbers get that low that seasons are closed in the south half of Manitoba, everyone should cooperate to get the population up again. What happened to equal rights?
- Aboriginal hunting rights have been one of the most abused rights granted to a human ever. We approach the millennium, yet some feel that a law made in the 1800s should still apply. Laws have been changed and altered throughout this century, why not Aboriginal hunting rights. These laws of the 1800s were made at a time when equipment was a horse and bow and arrow or maybe black powder. Now 4x4, ATV, night vision, hi-powered rifles, radio communications. Political correctness sucks. Having to subsistence hunt is one thing. Do a lot of Aboriginals in the southern part of the province need subsistence hunting (treaty rights)? The second priority should be true subsistence hunting (Aboriginal or white). The third priority should be residents of Manitoba (this includes Aboriginals, whites, blacks, Catholics, protestants and the list goes on). We are all supposed to be equal and until we get rid of this concept of special rights there will always be distrust, hatred and prejudice.
- Wildlife should be held in first priority, then all people, regardless of race, should be allowed to hunt for recreational purpose, followed by commercial use.
- We are all hunters looking to share the harvest and land equally. Why should some people be above laws just because of treaty and religious requirements? If we are allowed only 1 deer tag, Aboriginals continue to waste and sell deer as they please. They should follow the same laws and hunting regulations as the rest of us!

- Cultural uses of wildlife by natives is only a small component. Too much black market meat taken under pretence of treaty right, traditional heritage or subsistence food reasons. If a species is at risk it doesn't matter who kills it or why. The loss is irrevocable. This need not be so when there are available substitutes for food and cultural purposes.
- No! Joint management.
- We have to live for now, look after the here and now, not dwell in the past forever. Look at past, evaluate issues, problems and then fix it! Is this what they want? All the people, not just the vocal leader.
- To implement this policy will require government to specifically allocate more staff and support funding than presently occurs.
- We don't believe that Aboriginal use should be of a higher priority than that of the resident hunter. Both user groups should have equal rights and privileges for wildlife harvest and should all follow the same wildlife regulations. The exception being the waiving of license fees for subsistence hunting by Aboriginals living in remote locations and on reserves where a proven need to harvest a specified number of animals exists. Urban Aboriginals should not need subsistence hunting rights.
- In the past, where only Aboriginal harvest and use were allowed for a species there was found to be trafficking in these animals by Aboriginals to the non-aboriginal communities. E.g., sale of certain game species by Aboriginals to restaurants and Asian medicine markets when only Aboriginals were permitted to kill these species.
- Aboriginal people can hunt year-round and the game they take in some cases is sold.
- This should only apply to Crown lands, not private lands.
- Since Aboriginals already have access to millions of acres of Crown land, and the right to hunt year round, I see no reason to give them further access to game at the expense of the rights of non-aboriginal hunters.
- Cooperation management should be the norm, not co-management. Only the province has the mandate to manage resources. A much greater commitment of activities geared to cooperative management with First Nations is desperately needed.
- Unless the harvest of wildlife is definitely for sustenance, Aboriginals should have similar rights and obligations as the remainder of the population. It is common knowledge that Aboriginals have almost totally depleted some areas of wildlife - not for sustenance but as a commercial resource.
- Hunting practices should be humane. There should be penalties for those who kill animal and leave it to rot. Native and non-native.
- Best management and harvest practices [Comment repeated 5 times]
- Harvest season?

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Dauphin and Winnipeg.

- Object to native people hunting in non-traditional areas, with unrestricted access and no limit on their harvest.
- We must be careful not to take only the Aboriginal point of view in consideration as in 2.1k when determining the allocation to all user groups.
- Need enforcement by Aboriginal people of their own people with respect to subsistence hunting. Regulations should be the same for everyone. Wildlife resources shall be allocated to Aboriginal people within their own community.
- Provide for the exchange of information, must ensure this happens. More education!
- Harvest rate should be top of the list.
- Better involvement by Department of Natural Resources in consultation with Aboriginals.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Ashern, Little Grand Rapids, Norway House, St. Theresa Point, Thompson and Wabowden.

- Concern over the policy on Aboriginals – could request numbers of animals, there must be some controls.
- Aboriginal rights should be on an equal level with all Manitobans.
- There are no treaty hunting rights.

- Little Grand Rapids area—lots of wildlife, sustainable, for a long time; Who benefits from development; wildlife already protected by Little Grand Rapids. Why come now with Sustainable Development strategy? It's about money. It's another way of taking away rights.
- There is a problem with voluntary enforcement of band sanctioned restrictions by some Aboriginal people.
- Document should clearly recognize First Nations rights.
- There needs to be controls - bag limits for native hunters.
- Why aren't resources being managed - allowing Indian over harvest.
- Government failed to entrench in policy the inherent and treaty Aboriginal right to natural resources; Manitoba does not recognize that right, as recognized by Federal government.
- Statement on page 24 tries to encompass the wants and needs of the Aboriginal community; adapting to change is on one's mind; development must be under the hands of our people and be sustainable.
- There is a problem with Treaty Indian hunting rights.
- There are problems with poaching as well as First Nations over harvest.
- Total lack of respect for traditional use.

SUGGESTED POLICY 2.3:

Allocation of wildlife resources for hunting and trapping by residents shall be the third priority and requests for subsistence harvesting shall be considered on a case by case basis.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

2.3a Establish criteria for subsistence users and assess effects on wildlife populations.

2.3b Identify under-utilized species or populations for which subsistence allocations can be made.

2.3c Issue permits with conditions for demonstrated cases of need for subsistence harvest of wildlife.

2.3d Establish, continue and enhance hunting and trapping programs which:

a. regularly establishes harvest limits,

b. identifies demands for hunting and trapping,

c. maintains hunting opportunities by controlling harvest [e.g., primitive weapons seasons, one-tag two hunters],

d. maintain licensing systems for allocating wild animal resources for hunting and trapping,

e. optimizes economic, social and cultural benefits,

f. maximizes opportunities while ensuring public safety and minimizing conflicts with other resource users,

g. is based on geographic areas, such as game hunting areas and deer zones,

h. recognizes the differences in harvesting opportunities afforded by different geographic areas,

i. provides for conflict resolution and appeal mechanisms.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 2.3

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Policy 2.3	53%	13%	34%
Application 2.3a	82%	11%	7%
Application 2.3b	73%	18%	8%
Application 2.3c	72%	12%	16%
Application 2.3da	95%	4%	2%
Application 2.3db	92%	5%	2%
Application 2.3dc	88%	7%	4%
Application 2.3dd	92%	5%	2%
Application 2.3de	74%	20%	5%
Application 2.3df	87%	10%	3%
Application 2.3dg	86%	12%	2%
Application 2.3dh	87%	10%	2%
Application 2.3di	88%	11%	1%

- Policy areas 2.2 and 2.3 should, to me, have equal weighting. No single racial group should have precedence over any other. Where true subsistence hunting, fishing, or harvesting of plants occurs, it should be determined on a case by case basis. All laws and regulations should apply equally to all citizens.
- 2nd Priority.
- Should be #2 on priority (money generated by public hunters).
- We approach a time and value system where wildlife becomes too valuable - economically and ethically - to harvest. Wildlife is increasingly subjected to habitat loss, human disturbance, and other stresses (pollution) and it is time to educate people about respect and appreciation for all life. This cannot happen when resources are managed for human use.
- Should be second.
- Should be legal commitment, not policy to be debated. Legislation should also designate areas that policy will address. I want the choice as an elector to vote on this as government position not natural resources policy.
- Allocation of wildlife resources for hunting and trapping on private lands needs to be addressed so landowners are compensated and encouraged to maintain and even create new habitat.
- I don't really support the idea of subsistence harvesting being recognized as of any priority. There would be too much subjective thought involved, and I don't support the concept that resources should be allocated on the basis of need.
- Aboriginal hunting rights have been one of the most abused rights granted to a human ever. We approach the millennium, yet some feel that a law made in the 1800s should still apply. Laws have been changed and altered throughout this century, why not Aboriginal hunting rights? These laws of the 1800s were made at a time when equipment was a horse and bow and arrow or maybe black powder. Now- 4x4, ATV, night vision, hi-powered rifles, radio communications. Political correctness sucks. Having to subsistence hunt is one thing. Do a lot of Aboriginals in the southern part of the province need subsistence hunting (treaty rights)? The second priority should be true subsistence hunting (Aboriginal or white). The third priority should be residents of Manitoba (this includes Aboriginals, whites, blacks, Catholics, Protestants and the list goes on). We are all supposed to be equal and until we get rid of this concept of special rights there will always be distrust, hatred and prejudice.
- This section should be priority #2, and not after Aboriginal treaties! Why should one group or culture have access to wildlife recreation (and resources) and not others?
- Fourth priority.
- Is there still such a "need"?
- I don't know who this might apply to.
- The demands for hunting and trapping are there. It's the controls on harvests needed, e.g., tags per hunter, per two, etc.
- There are many others also.
- But apply it to everyone.
- Why give primitive weapons longer seasons and priority areas? This is so controversial! Every hunter in the province should have equal rights. Why does it appear that the weapon capable of making the cleanest most humane kill, namely the rifle, receives the least advantage?
- I'm not convinced that hunting opportunity outweighs the consideration for killing opportunity in the minds of most hunters. These additional "opportunities" are often granted at the expense of the "majority rifle" hunter.
- Game hunting poor use of identified populations.
- Geographic areas should be private lands wildlife management areas where private lands predominate - where private wildlife management areas are operated by a local board in concert with Department of Natural Resources.
- Use ecological zones.
- At what cost?
- Who are the other resource users?

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Dauphin, Flin Flon and Winnipeg.

- Question that "subsistence allocations" would be covered under section 2.2.
- Subsistence hunting should be enforced. Hunters should demonstrate they have land to hunt upon before being allocated a "draw" licence.
- Allocation priority in wildlife strategy should be changed. First priority should be 2.3 residents of Manitoba.
- We must be careful in determining that the arbitrary trapping of elk and other animals from the provincial trust (which is to be used to the benefit of the greater community) is not done for the benefit of a very few individuals.
- Also canned white-tail hunts.

SUGGESTED POLICY 2.4:

Allocation of wildlife resources for hunting and trapping by residents shall be the third priority and requests for subsistence harvesting shall be considered on a case by case basis.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

2.4a Identify and monitor the demands of the tourism and other wildlife related commercial industries.

2.4b Maintain an allocation system which governs and allocates areas of operations and wild animal resources surplus to the needs of higher priority users.

2.4c Maintain and improve the process for allocating wild animal resources for commercial use and harvest to ensure it optimizes social and economic benefits and which:

- *is based on geographic areas, such as game hunting areas,*
- *recognizes the level and variety of opportunities for use in different geographic areas,*
- *recognizes the requirement for tenure in allocation,*
- *provides for conflict resolution and appeal mechanisms,*
- *structures fees to reflect market value,*
- *recognizes market demands for remote and isolated wilderness tourism experience.*

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 2.4

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Policy 2.4	64%	17%	20%
Application 2.4a	87%	10%	3%
Application 2.4b	75%	16%	9%
Application 2.4ca	75%	18%	7%
Application 2.4cb	77%	19%	5%
Application 2.4cc	64%	27%	9%
Application 2.4cd	71%	24%	5%
Application 2.4ce	64%	21%	14%
Application 2.4cf	78%	18%	5%

- Trappers who have registered trap lines should be given some consideration for getting non-resident bear tags and deer tags. This would help offset some trapline expenses. Even just a couple of tags would satisfy most!
- Commercial should hardly be considered priority.
- Should be legal commitment, not policy to be debated. Legislation should also designate areas that policy will address. I want the choice as an elector to vote on this as government position not natural resources policy.
- On private lands, the private wildlife management area should have final jurisdiction over allocation of licenses and over all commercial uses. Should only apply to areas which are predominately Crown land.
- Disagree with wildlife farming.
- I disagree with placing market value on wild game. I also disagree with canned hunts, trapping of elk or other big game.
- The allocation of wildlife for human use / consumption, or captivity is a practice which should be governed by sound science and not emotional bias. It has never been the activists who have saved a wildlife population but rather hunters who are also conservationists.
- Ecotourism and wildlife viewing should carry a user fee the same as a hunting license. The cost of maintaining habitat and resources which is the "value" for those wanting the wilderness experience. As it is anybody goes anywhere on Crown land with very little cost. No return forthcoming to Manitobans in the local areas for using that wilderness.
- Higher priority users - who are they?
- Define higher priority users? Is the paper company a high priority user? Does this mean this survey is geared towards pandering to the paper company and the government's quest to keep it going at any cost?
- Non-resident outfitters should pay a fee for use of wild animal resources!
- Should include a specific reference to non-consumptive users since essentially non-consumptive (i.e., wildlife viewing) outfitters are not recognized and do not enjoy an allocated area exclusive of consumptive outfitters.
- Why should tenure have anything to do with whether or not a person has priority?
- Why not "best use"?
- Lots of money there, it was better advertised!

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Dauphin and Winnipeg.

- Recognize the importance of commercial tourism use of resources to economic health of rural communities.
- Commercial use put as #2 in priority. Any surplus elk should be auctioned through a conservation organization such as Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation with funds reverting to habitat work, rather than harvesting (capturing) elk for the livestock industry.
- A succinct definition of tenure must be given to user groups before determining allocation to all groups involved (covered off in 2.5).

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Ashern, Thompson, Russell and Virden.

- Increase non-resident licences and number of outfitters – there would be less problems if they had smaller areas.
- Landowners should be given licences for outfitting.
- Disagree with elk farming.
- Policy 2.4 seems to be taking away treaty rights.
- Glad there is no new elk trapping.
- Against elk ranching.
- What are the reasons non-resident rifle deer hunting isn't allowed?
- In the long term, non-resident hunting will shut out resident hunting.
- Would like to see the SW area opened to non-resident rifle deer hunting.

SUGGESTED POLICY 2.5:

Existing commitments and access and tenure rights to wild animal resources shall be protected.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

2.5a Ensure continued access to wild animal resources, recognizing that commercial access to wild animals does not confer ownership by:

a. honouring legitimate commercial and tourism access rights, and

b. providing for the on-going renewal of existing commercial licensed operators in "good standing."

2.5b By regulation:

a. define tenure and access rights, and "in good standing" as they relate to commercial use of wild animals,

b. outline the conditions under which a licence or right may be reallocated or revoked, and

c. provide for an appeal mechanism for allocation decisions.

2.5c Define when and if, compensation may be given to affected individuals, where access to wild animal resources is allocated to some other commercial wild animal use; recognizing no compensation is to be provided in cases of the protection of wild animal population sustainability, meeting treaty and constitutional obligations and resident requirements.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 2.5

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Policy 2.5	74%	12%	14%
Application 2.5aa	71%	20%	9%
Application 2.5ab	73%	21%	6%
Application 2.5ba	81%	12%	7%
Application 2.5bb	86%	10%	3%
Application 2.5bc	78%	15%	6%
Application 2.5c	60%	21%	19%

- Existing wildlife, such as elk, should not be domesticated no matter who is friends with which politician.
- By all?
- Prefer not to renew agreements when term is completed unless Manitoba Natural Resources is entirely certain that no serious risks are created by the activity.
- I don't have the information or background on this subject as to who and where it now applies.
- On private lands, the private wildlife management area should have final jurisdiction over allocation of licenses and over all commercial uses. Should only apply to areas which are predominantly Crown land.
- Need revamping.
- Not closely monitored.
- Make penalty strong.
- If treaty obligations cause me to lose my commercial bear and duck hunting area, I expect compensation!
- Implies right to use or ownership.
- I think that with regards to big game outfitters, if a species is threatened they should not be given compensation as they do not put anything towards the upkeep of the animals - they only harvest them and for a profit. I worked for a big game outfitter as a guide and was very disappointed in that there is no sustainable development in place, they only care about the money they take in and over-hunt the areas. I think that they should be more responsible.
- I don't know what you have in mind with this proposal.
- Licenses should not be issued to areas of commercial use, e.g., elk trapping, don't sell hunting licenses where the hunting has been depleted.

Group Workshop Comments

The following comment was made at the workshop in Ashern.

- Agree with "by regulation define tenure and access rights."

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Ashern and Thompson.

- Agreement with term and access rights.
- There must be access to resources.
- Should be compensation to trappers for damage to traplines.

SUGGESTED POLICY 2.6:

Where feasible and desirable, wild plant and animal populations shall be increased.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

2.6a Develop, improve and implement population management plans.

2.6b Partner and work cooperatively with the agricultural community, industry, Aboriginal community and stakeholders to establish, monitor and evaluate population enhancement programs.

2.6c Develop information and extension programs on the benefits, disadvantages and risks of wildlife introductions and habitat manipulation.

2.6d Develop management plans specific to increasing populations of appropriate species at risk.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 2.6

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Policy 2.6	90%	7%	4%
Application 2.6a	94%	6%	2%
Application 2.6b	93%	3%	3%
Application 2.6c	91%	7%	2%
Application 2.6d	94%	6%	0%

- Unacceptable to modify habitat in favor of commercial / recreational species, because this is likely unnatural process and impacts on other wildlife.
- Desirable to address extinction only / not for harvest / natural occurring impact of man.
- The proposal increase of animals or plants will likely impact on the ecology of the affected area, therefore an Environmental Impact Assessment should be conducted.
- Populations can be self-sustaining if harvest rates are adjusted. Plans would be a waste of time and money.
- Stakeholders who put something into the system, not just take.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Dauphin and Swan River.

- To assist specific wildlife populations in recovery, areas should be restricted to all hunting by all users until numbers recover.
- There should be some effort towards increasing sharp-tail grouse numbers possibly be preserving natural habitat.

SUGGESTED POLICY 2.7:

Wildlife allocation systems shall be based on the most accurate population information available.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

2.7a Maintain, upgrade or establish data storage, retrieval and management information systems.

2.7b Maintain a comprehensive database which may include:

- *population information, including numbers, age, sex, genetic characteristics, and ranges for at least those species at risk, and those hunted, trapped or collected,*
- *demand information,*
- *harvest information including species taken, numbers and characteristics, location, effort, and revenues,*
- *land use information including ownership, designation, land disposition and tenure, current and potential uses, mineral rights, habitat type and quality, and species occurrences.*

2.7c Establish partnerships, develop and maintain mechanisms for data sharing and management among government departments, other governments, Aboriginal community, non-government agencies, such as community round tables, industry, the agricultural community and individuals.

2.7d Conduct and facilitate specific studies in wild animal and plant populations, communities and ecosystems.

2.7e Maintain the wildlife research evaluation and approval process.

2.7f Partner with and continue to participate and cooperate in provincial, national and international wildlife research programs.

2.7g Encourage research related to the monitoring and management of wildlife species.

2.7h Monitor the status and maintain a comprehensive data base specific to species at risk.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 2.7

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Policy 2.7	96%	3%	1%
Application 2.7a	94%	6%	0%
Application 2.7ba	92%	6%	1%
Application 2.7bb	83%	15%	2%
Application 2.7bc*	0%	0%	0%
Application 2.7bd	86%	11%	4%
Application 2.7c	85%	11%	3%
Application 2.7d	89%	11%	0%
Application 2.7e	91%	9%	0%
Application 2.7f	90%	9%	1%
Application 2.7g	93%	7%	0%
Application 2.7h	95%	5%	0%
*Application missed in questionnaire			

- Scientifically sound.
- Relatively little Man. [??]
- How? E.g., domestic hunting and trapping, where is this info going to come from?
- Easy for everyone to understand.
- Volunteer info not "demand."
- Land use info is the landowner's concern.
- Harvest information [Comment repeated 5 times].
- They are too self-serving (Aboriginal community).
- Make people responsible for their own "back yards"! Keep focus on the here and now, not the past always!
- In a cost-effective manner.
- Too extensive, a study needed, too much cost.
- There is a distinct lack of solely provincially-initiated and fully funded wildlife research programs in Manitoba. More funds and staff need to be allocated to this initiative.
- I feel we have to be careful we don't connect ourselves with animal activist groups whose concern is definitely not hunting.
- Do ground work too, in the field!
- Strongly agree, the government should encourage private landowners to research and monitor specific species or species at risk on their private property. We want the government to play a leading role, however for the government to implement all of these suggestions, I believe is far too costly to the taxpayer.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshop in Winnipeg.

- Cash resources and human equity must be redirected towards ensuring that population counts and tagging programs are completed to accurately determine individual species populations. E.g., [Eastern Manitoba] caribou tagging program was not completed in 1998 due to lack of funding.
- Also, we would like to ensure that all proceeds from licensing, fines and infractions be redirected into wildlife related issues from the General Revenue account.

General Questionnaire Comments on Policy Area 2

- I would like to see all Crown land stay as is and not used for cattle or grazing lands for farming purposes. I feel that this not only damages the land and land structures but it also affects the grazing and feeding of our own natural resources.
- Alter and adjust outdated treaty hunting rights to present day needs and considerations. Without the Aboriginal people involved in game management, by rules and regulations to avoid an over-harvest, this whole effort will be a waste of time and money.
- While Aboriginal people do have hunting and fishing rights, there is very little need of the meat taken, and most hunting and fish-netting is done to intimidate white people. Some type of allocation / tag system would help to stop some of the waste which is very common in our area (Riding Mountain National Park). Our sport fishing lakes cannot sustain the netting which is totally out of control. The need for subsistence hunting and fishing is hard to swallow when the Aboriginals doing the most complaining are also driving the nicest 4x4's. Under no circumstances should the licensed hunter be penalized to provide extra resources for treaty hunting.
- I do not believe treaty rights should apply outside reserve land. Wildlife / fisheries should not be allocated second priority to Aboriginal people. Treaties should not apply to private land and unappointed Crown land. You can not have a sustained wildlife and fishery population in Manitoba without some sort of harvest control. At this time treaty people have not any restriction on numbers of animals or fish harvested. Tax paying residents of Manitoba. Should have priority over Aboriginal people. If the Metis people would get their rights to hunt / fish in Manitoba. I believe there will be areas void of wildlife / fish in Manitoba. We will not need a Natural Resources department in Manitoba. Because you cannot sustain a fish / wildlife population when there are not controlled harvest numbers.
- Nature looks after itself. We don't mess with it by introducing new wildlife or plant life. We protect nature; but she polices herself as to population sizes. Keep the balance!
- Aboriginals, trappers and hunters should all be treated equal for second priority.
- You cannot effectively "manage wildlife" when only one segment of the hunting population report wildlife harvested.
- The preservation and enhancement of habitats and wild plants and animals must take firm precedence over any concern with allocation, however, having said that it is unrealistic to ignore allocation. Firstly the ownership and stewardship of all wild plants and animals rests with the people of Manitoba. Secondly, I disagree with any notion of commercial use of wild plants and animals, especially the capture of elk (and eventually other ungulates) for domestic farming / commerce. We will need to tolerate traditional uses such as trapping until the practice fades out, as unnecessary.
- I do not agree with your policies regarding the Aboriginal community. I live 3 miles from an Indian reserve. I have lived here all my life (45 years) and I know most of these people on a first name basis. Many of them are good friends of mine. I know first hand that a lot of natives abuse their right of unlimited hunting. Approximately 50% of the reserve doesn't hunt at all. Of the remaining 50% that does hunt, about 50% of those do not abuse their rights, and hunt only for meat. It is the other 50% of the hunting population that cause many problems. They go out and slaughter as many animals as they can. Most of these are sold, mainly to Winnipeg and other urban centres. I realize that the Department of Natural Resources don't have the manpower to control this abuse. Even if some natives are charged with illegally selling meat, the courts don't give stiff enough sentences to make these people quit their actions. In my opinion there is only one workable solution to this problem. Every native should be given a set number of tags which they can use at any time of the year. The government should sit down with native leaders and come up with the number of deer, moose and elk that a household would need to live on for a year. Each household would be issued a sufficient number of tags that could be used throughout the year. When a native kills an animal he would have to use a tag. If that person was caught in possession of an untagged animal, he would be charged the same as any other non-aboriginal person. This system would ensure that any native that wants to live on wild meat would be allowed to. It would also eliminate (or at least curtail) some of the selling of wild meat by the native. This slaughter and selling of wild animals by

the natives not only reduces wildlife population for ethical hunters, but it also makes for bad feelings between natives and non-natives. I am a hunter myself, and I have no problem with natives shooting any animals for their own use. However, when they go out and shoot dozens of animals to be sold, this really bugs me. I know of many people that think the way I do. The government must step in and stop the abuses. If they don't, some of our wildlife populations will be decreased to low levels - especially moose and elk. Hunting seasons will have to be stopped or reduced. This will lead to bad feelings between natives and non-natives. I realize that it is a minority of the natives causing most of the problems. That is because I live among them. Most people don't know the situation and will paint all natives with the same brush.

- Aboriginals (Native or Indian or Metis) should be forced to follow the same provincial laws defining license, hunting season and area as all other hunters. No exceptions. This includes so-called subsistence hunters who sell big game and fish for profit.
- Unrestricted hunting and night lighting by Aboriginals was fine 100 years ago. Today with 4x4 and spot lights as well as high powered rifles it is not necessary and shouldn't be allowed. Also it is not necessary to have so many questions when answering. The ones in bold print would be sufficient.
- Allocation of wildlife resources for hunting and trapping by residents and non-residents for that matter should be the second priority. Look at the revenue generated by the hunting and fishing public; There is no reason why the Aboriginal public can not provide food for their families and still follow the same regulations and limits that I do.
- With all the programs, committees, research, information systems that are being proposed here, and the limited funds available, I cannot see any of this being beneficial in my lifetime, and I'm 45 years of age. With all the money spent on the committees and management, I'm sorry to say the wildlife and habitat will severely suffer in the end.
- Reports on all annual monitoring programs to be prepared and available to public and government branches within 6 months following survey. All reports to be done in a professional and sound scientific manner.
- Aboriginals should be equal to and treated as residents. All their harvesting should be controlled, e.g., a free tag system. We cannot train predators (e.g., wolves) not to kill a depleting stock. We should be able to train and educate the 2 legged predators.
- Native wasting of wildlife needs to come to a halt! In changing times we are supplementing these people with money that is being misused and claims to wildlife is now an excuse for pushing past agreements. Times are changing therefore past treaty rights must change.
- I feel we should restock this area with white tail deer, we have lots of good habitat but no animals, I feel the timber wolves have cleaned them out, but with a pilot project and some management and help from the trappers, we could build up a healthy population again.
- More opportunities exist for elk where as there are unused archery tags. These licenses could be put toward a draw black powder season. The last time license tags went 2 on one the license fee remained the same, so Department of Natural Resources doubled the money received per animal.
- Aboriginal treaty rights must come under the same guidelines as licence buying - tax paying - consumption hunters. Equal rights are equal rights.
- The regulations only apply to responsible people. Special interest groups will never agree. All suggestions are worthy of support, but first the Aboriginal community must be in cooperation. I believe only by working closely and working the conservation.
- Stop trapping of wild elk for commercial purposes. There should be no profit to individuals to trap elk. Aboriginals have some special rights but these rights should not stop the public from sharing in the harvest of these animals.
- Who are non-government agencies? Questions can mean a lot of things. Non-government agency can mean giving Louisiana Pacific in Swan River the rights to cut down the Duck Mountains for the benefit of Louisiana Pacific and to make the government look good. It does nothing for the wildlife. Why is Louisiana Pacific in Swan River cutting and staking out all Crown land in that area. I live in the Duck Mountain area and have hunted in the Duck Mountains all my life, and I never have seen so much destruction in my life. Thanks to the Filmon government, the ecosystem in that area will be ruined for hundreds of years. Very biased questionnaire.

- Any group or objective should be 2nd place to species management. The increasing of selected species should not take place for harvest intent but only for endangered species.
- Aboriginal communities should participate in a season and tag system at no cost to the Aboriginal people. Landowners with natural wildlife habitats (lush, lakes etc.) should be recognized and rewarded in some way.
- Looks like Wildlife Branch is getting a huge money increase and a pile more staff. How about asking questions about what we can do with what we have. Maybe have a few desk jockeys back into the field, instead of doing analysis and questionnaire creation.
- Wildlife harvest should always be regulated on biological management and not by social or perceived fears.
- The underlying problem with this whole area is how and why some Aboriginals harvest wild game. Harvest seasons need to be established as well as harvest means, (no use of artificial lighting) and harvest numbers. So legislate daylight hunting only, areas, numbers for resident Aboriginals. (Get balls, make changes).
- The over harvest of big game, deer and fur bearers is one by non-aboriginal as well as Aboriginal, but in the north because of their greater number, most of the abuse is done by Aboriginal and then usually for profit. I have seen many time the killing female mouse and bear with young. Some Aboriginals have no regard for the preservation of wildlife, only profit. Many have no idea or knowledge of any type of management. If / when the Aboriginal community is allowed funding or responsibility for any part of this strategy, they must be trained properly and held accountable.
- There is a need for the accountability of license fees and where it is spent!
- Aboriginal slaughter of deer, moose and elk must be addressed. I personally have been camped in the Duck Mountains archery hunting moose when awakened in the middle of the night by rifle shots. Next morning the natives go by hauling out the fresh meat. I also know of farmers with deer in their winter hay yard, when asking for help from local natural resources people, none was given so the farmer called the Aboriginals. They came with lights and rifles and killed around 90 deer. There must be a lot of hungry Aboriginals to eat them all in one bunch. This type of thing is happening far to often.
- Wildlife should not be treated as a commodity to be traded. No one (outside of treaty obligations) should be permitted to own a wildlife resource.
- All the points involving this section should be left up to the people mainly harvesting in the certain areas. I have been harvesting fur in the Whiteshell for close to 25 years. In my area, I keep track of populations and harvest accordingly. I have had certain groups of so-called environmentalists tell me I am a killer. No one knows more than the trapper about his area. I am not an Aboriginal but in my times on the trapline I have learned to respect animal populations and to respect the environment. I think too many special interest groups try to sway public opinions while they may think they are helping animals, many times with their ideas, they are hurting them.
- Sustainability of wild animal populations should be first priority. Then all Manitobans should come second not Aboriginals! Ahead of the tax paying majority.
- Sub policies as identified are supportable, some are mandatory, however lets not get sidetracked by issues, causes, symptoms before we identify / legislate which is the overall goal.
- I'm not qualified, nor particularly comfortable in answering questions on Aboriginal issues in this questionnaire. It's probably more relevant to disregard / eliminate these questions from my questionnaire. Allocation and supply is a very difficult concept to attempt to regulate. With the exception of some species (i.e., waterfowl) wildlife populations in Manitoba are very poorly understood and quantified. Before you can allocate / supply, significantly more research has to be conducted on assessing and monitoring wildlife and habitats in Manitoba.
- I don't like the idea of native hunters being able to kill any time of year, as much as they want, without paying a fee for doing this. This is wrong. The rest of the hunters support the laws and adhere to them and money from their license fees help wildlife, while the natives abuse the resource.
- A lot of your questions are far too repetitive. Keep the survey short.
- Aboriginal and non-aboriginal use of animal resources should be equal. Under the current system there is far more waste mismanagement of our animal

population by Aboriginal than by non-aboriginal. At the rate that the Aboriginal population is growing, unless they impose a quota themselves there will be no animal population to hunt for future generations. Subsistence users (meat) should be restricted to areas where a species is over-populated and needs to be controlled. A data base is important but the establishment of more bureaucracy (spending millions of taxpayer dollars) to create a vast data base of ecosystem etc., although interesting, will not alter the current extinction of species. Natural progression of effects of human population on the environment should be avoided.

- I feel that Aboriginals (treaty) must fully understand how an ecosystem works. They must meet the other users (hunters, recreation, tourism etc.) halfway. Yes, it is important to recognize their rights, but they must realize we're not working for them. Only together can proper wildlife use be managed successfully. I also feel that the forestry operations (Pine Fall Paper Mill for example) are harvesting at an accelerated rate. I've seen the roads made by Tolko and it's unbelievable how much territory has already been harvested. Unless some regulation is put in place, I worry about the future look of our landscape. The look of provincial highway 314, north to Bird Lake is my last comment. If you visit the area, the scene will be shocking. While I understand the intent to increase the visibility of drivers, the remains of tree stumps, residue piles and discarded timber leaves are nothing to be proud of. I pray the Pine Falls Mill plans residual burns to clean the area.
- Education to Aboriginal communities is imperative. Also reverse flow of education.
- Concerning fishing, the government should be purchasing any commercial licenses available to reduce the number of netters. Most fishermen do so only as a secondary income or for employment insurance, not as a living. The commercial fishing industry could eventually be placed in the hands of the Aboriginals. Concerning hunting and fishing, spawning grounds should be protected from all fishing including Aboriginals. It's their resource too. River mouths and other congregating places should also be closed to fishing for a longer period. For hunting, Aboriginals who live in places where refrigeration is commonplace, should be restricted from hunting in spring for about 2 months before and 2 months after calving seasons, March to June. At least, let wildlife reproduce. Besides, Aboriginal rights are discriminatory, and it doesn't matter who was here first, it's the last one that counts. I don't think serious research should be carried out on an ongoing basis on species not in danger, unless they are endangering others. Money can be spent elsewhere for more benefit. Common species usually cycle or fluctuate regularly without the need to be studied.
- Can't manage a natural resource when you have an uncontrolled user group. We have to put restrictions on our native hunting. Should not be any subsistence hunting south of the 53rd parallel.
- Harvesting of wildlife (commercial or otherwise), should be legislated to be done in an ethical and proper manner, e.g., netting, trapping, hunting and studying.
- Funding?
- Studies on wild animals and plants would be more effective if information was also garnered from individual private citizens in that area. These people have more knowledge of that specific area than any short-term study.
- Aboriginal people no longer use traditional means or ways to harvest wildlife. Therefore it can no longer have any religious meaning. Most just rape the land with modern equipment because it is legal and they can. I feel all Manitobans should have equal rights to all wildlife and no race or religion should stand above one another.
- The Aboriginal community, through education needs to be more involved in the understanding of wildlife and habitat. There are still too many natives with the attitude "I will harvest what I want, when I want, my right." This is exemplified by night lighting and hunting deer, (especially at fawning time) and then complaining that there are no deer in their area. The other group that needs education is the farm group. Many are still clearing our what small patches of woodlots are left. Their reasoning is "The trees don't pay taxes." We should possibly find some method of preserving woodlots, as this was aspen parkland originally, and to see the last small remnants of bush cleared, is depressing when driving through the area.
- Absolutely no feeding of wildlife such as elk, deer, etc. The minute you feed them they are no longer wild. Perhaps improving habitat away from settled areas might help but feeding absolutely not. All

policies such as this are a step backward. Also we can't feed people because of lack of money and there is lots of money to feed wildlife. That's a joke.

- Wildlife resources for hunting and trapping for residents is the 2nd priority, after sustainability-which wildlife management is. Aboriginals must be educated somehow on the wise use of wildlife. I.e., the moose slaughter in the north that has meant a low population of animals, and selling of wildlife. Elk should have been transplanted to other areas, and or tags increased by number and to any sex harvested, instead of rounding up to sell. Introduce special muzzle loader elk and moose seasons. Use hunter harvest info and sighting to a greater degree for management, make it a requirement for obtaining licenses. Expansion of hunting/trapping for problem wildlife.
- Recognition of treaty rights is already established as a top priority through court decisions. Population management can be dangerous, especially when science behind population determination is faulty or where there is interference with natural cycles.
- For most Aboriginals today, and particularly in the south, hunting is not an important way to assure food. Aboriginals should be included with other residents except where there is evidence of need of wild meat for sustenance.
- I believe allocation of species for harvest should be equal for Aboriginal and non-aboriginal users. Putting Aboriginal use ahead of others seems discriminating and leads to disrespect for the hunting regulations. I think that outfitting for non-residents should be a very low priority if allowed at all. I see very little economic advantage except for a few individuals. Most non-resident hunters contribute little or nothing to local communities and displace resident hunters by paying a lot of money to individuals who reserve private hunting areas for them. This is land that was traditionally hunted by local people in many cases.
- Just because a person is of Aboriginal descent should not give them priority to wildlife. Especially in regards to big game. Most Aboriginal "hunters" that I have met are financially well enough off to afford powerful snowmobiles and four wheelers while poor people on their reserves have no access to wildlife. This is a demoralizing situation for many wildlife users and undermines the best intentions of other wildlife users. I agree that trappers and others that live off the land should have priority but should not depend upon their ethnicity.
- If wild animal populations are used for economic gain by agriculture, then other economic enterprises such as outfitting / tourism should also be encouraged to optimize use of the resource. That is, supplying hunts / adventures / ecotourism to Canadians, Americans and visitors from overseas alike.
- I'm not sure existing access right need continue forever, conditions change. I'm not in favour of increasing populations if the purpose is to increase harvest (hunting). The first priority has to be biodiversity.
- We are concerned that the commercial use of wildlife is becoming more important to Department of Natural Resources than the use by local resident populations. We do not wish to see any commercial activities started with elk, as we don't have enough of a population to satisfy our resident population. Also that there be no expansion of non-resident deer hunting into the southern deer hunting areas. We also feel that the ecotourism be promoted at times when there is no conflict with other users. We also feel that the Department of Natural Resources could suggest legislation be developed to cover harassment by the anti users for persons who have a right to use and are so designated to do same.
- I would not prioritize areas 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3. They should all be addressed equally.
- I agree with the policies, but I do not agree that we should have discrimination, that people of one race or color should have more rights or less rights than other Canadians.
- What Aboriginal ecological knowledge? Treaty rights? Aboriginal population increases, 10x by 2050? Demography of Aboriginal, access to private land? What's a Metis? Where are they coming from? Commercial wildlife - Manitoba Department of Agriculture is not an option. Emu's, wild boars, pot bellied pigs, ostriches, hedgehogs, now: elk, bison, deer—what next?
- Reference to Aboriginal "rights" is a large issue, as well as the treaties. When the treaties were signed, hunting methods were primitive. Not with 4 wheel drives, spot lights and scoped rifles. This issue must be addressed in a fair manner. Sustainability has to be the 1rst priority. "Surplus" game could / should be allocated through special draws to non-resident Canadians and non-resident aliens.

- Management decisions involving game animals must remain the domain of the department, with consultation among user groups. Ultimate decisions must not be allowed to be swayed by minority, vocal groups.
- It is important to give a high priority to wildlife, but not an absolute priority over the rights and property of affected stakeholders, namely farmers and farming practices that now sustain livelihoods.
- Animal populations should only be artificially raised for species at risk and only where the effects of such an increase won't severely negatively impact other species.
- Aboriginal communities should have no more rights to wildlife resources than any other resident of Manitoba.
- Those who poach (native and non-native) should be given stiff penalties and should lose certain rights or property, not just money. We should advertise poachers like they do drunk drivers in the USA. We need to take a harder stand against poaching.
- There has to be some way to bring the White Lady Slipper to prosper as it is a pest controller. People have to research. There are a lot of empty places that need to be filled to help the province recover and bring the economy back to basic instinct. Where the people and wildlife and if the people do better so does everything else fall in place, a little at a time, bit by bit, even if it's a little bit.
- Aboriginal people should have the same rights as others. They are the ones ruining the wildlife by poaching for the sale of horns and meat.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comment was recorded at workshop in Thompson.

- First priority must be for Aboriginal people.

General Group Workshop Comments on Policy Area 2

The following comments were made at workshops in Ashern, Brandon, Dauphin, Flin Flon, Neepawa and Swan River.

- Sustainability of top importance, both [?] and [?] populations should be identified and addressed. Example: "Snow geese."
- Above statement important especially with eroding habitat.
- Requirements for dead animals to Aboriginal use (eagle feathers).
- Questions about too much attention to Aboriginals rather than science / education.
- The ref Aboriginal should not be used as freely as it has in the past.
- Priority 1. Wildlife 2. Manitobans for using Crown land.
- Historically natives hunted to survive. This was relevant in the early 1900s. At present a requirement is no longer needed.
- Summary: This all boils down to average Manitobans feel like second-class citizens when compared to natives.
- Disagreement over priority given to Aboriginal rights, subsistence vs. commercial. Times changes, obligations change, for example Crow Rate was changed.
- Allocation priority in wildlife strategy should be changed.
- First priority should be (2.3) residents of Manitoba. Second priority (2.4) should be commercial use. Third priority (2.2) Aboriginal people.
- Problem wildlife: Control of high cormorant population. Snow goose population. Should be able to control as needed, do not have to wait until gets worse.
- Area 1 open spring 1999 but will not help reduce population with the low population of hunters in that area. Why not in southern Manitoba where hunter can reduce population?
- Problem with treaty hunter along highways, harvesting of moose along 39 Hwy.
- Wildlife & Fisheries policy discussions should be taken away from politicians. A Big Game Commission should be set up with Provincial Wildlife Branch / Tourism / Trapping / Aboriginal people / residents from each region of Manitoba. (Example of Ontario Spring Bear Hunt).
- Elk Trapping: Elk belong to residents of Manitoba and should not be trapped. If too many elk extend hunting season or move into new areas, i.e., Sturgeon Landing Road / Reed Lake area.

- In the past, any public meeting the government has had, they have not listened to the concerns by people at these meetings. The government has already made there policies before these meetings were held.
- Laws should be posted to protect licensed hunters from animal rights people (hunter harassment).
- Final Answer. If your allocation policy is not changed for priority (1) to resident taxpayer first, this whole strategy is a waste of time.
- People in southern Manitoba seem to be making policy for northern Manitoba areas where they do not know what's going on.
- Freeze the use of unoccupied Crown land for wildlife habitat.
- For fragile topography and habitat (Crown land) that provides deer and elk forage-restrict to hay land only.
- Ontario closure of spring bear hunt, spring bear hunting issues.
- Lots of animals to harvest.
- Employment opportunity and enjoyment of hunters.
- Spring hunting has cubs invariably with the sow at feeding stations.
- Easy to identify a sow from lactation signs.
- One recommendation is amalgamation of 2.2 and 2.3
- First, sustainability of wild animals. Second, allocation for hunting and trapping to Manitobans. Third, commercial use.
- Trapping of wild elk - leave them alone - the principle of trapping is unfair.
- Elk in captivity develop cholesterol over time due to captivity.
- Conflict of trapping elk and the availability of hunting opportunity.
- We feel there should be more opportunity to hunt elk around [Game Hunting Area] 23 ahead of trapping elk. The new priority could see 3-5 years without a licence.
- Caribou eligibility-first come, first serve on the first 250 people in a line-up in Winnipeg. The 251st person is out of luck.
- [Department staff GB] explained the reason for the second licence.
- White Spring goose hunting using the control of harvest-look at expanding spring hunting into other zones of Manitoba to take advantage of the large populations and potential income.
- Recovery of big game: Use of dogs for fatally wounded big game "important not to waste an animal that could be recovered."
- Some country hunting licence revenue should be directed to Natural Resources.
- If elk numbers are down there should be no more trapping.
- Disagree with all wildlife elk, deer, birds, moose, etc...(policies) allocation priorities.
- Accurate information on population numbers should be available before any allocation is made.
- Conservation of animals before consumptive uses.
- Aboriginal and resident sport hunting should have equal priorities. Exceptions could be made for truly subsistence hunting in remote areas.
- There should be some method of reporting by Aboriginals as to the number of animals taken.
- There should be no hunting during the spring when animals are giving birth.
- There was some discussions on going from a draw to open seasons in the valley, however, there would not be a unanimous opinion amongst the group.
- No one should be allowed to purposely feed wildlife without the permission of Natural Resources.
- Commercial uses in the area, i.e., outfitters seem to be accepted favourably in the area.
- Sustainability of the species should be priority in the allocation and planning of a wildlife resource same as Policy Area 2.
- Adequately states the overall objective.

Policy Area 3: Development and Use

SUGGESTED POLICY 3.1:

Sustainable economic development and use opportunities for wild animal and plant based industries shall be identified and facilitated.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

3.1a Partner with stakeholders and identify opportunities and develop programs to promote:

a. wildlife based tourism including ecotourism and non-resident hunting,

b. the fur industry,

c. the hunting service industry,

d. other commercial wildlife based industries, e.g., the harvesting or collecting of snakes, frogs, antlers and plants.

3.1b Consult regularly and partner with the wildlife based businesses, the Aboriginal community and other government organizations respecting:

a. development of new market niches and market expansion for wildlife related activities [e.g., tourism] and products [e.g., furs],

b. marketing of wild plant and animal opportunities and products to traditional market areas and facilitating increased promotion of wildlife opportunities to visitors,

c. increasing efforts to attract non-traditional markets to view Manitoba as a wildlife destination,

d. capturing opportunities to market Manitoba internationally,

e. preparing and implementing marketing plans,

f. responsible use of the resource to ensure long-term business viability.

3.1c Partner and work with the wildlife related tourism industry, the Aboriginal community, local governments and others such as community round tables to:

a. develop, maintain and upgrade tourism related services, infrastructure and facilities;

b. develop a mandatory tourist lodge and outfitting quality assurance program with fee-for-service on a cost-recovery basis,

c. control and regulate road access to optimize the economic potential of the tourism industry,

d. encourage wilderness tourism within appropriately designated lands.

3.1d Recognize market demands for remote and isolated wilderness tourism experiences.

3.1e Encourage increased participation in and identification of economic development opportunities related to the non-consumptive use of wildlife such as: - enhancing the bird watching service industry by promoting such activities as bird feeding, bird house placement, and the Christmas bird count, - wildlife and nature viewing by encouraging development of trails, interpretative centres, conservatories, accredited zoos, arboretums and botanical gardens.

3.1f Increase the participation in and identification of economic development opportunities related to resident hunting.

3.1g Ensure maximum opportunities for wild animal use, while limiting harvest, as necessary, such as "one tag, two hunters."

3.1h Provide for the issuance of multi-year leases for wildlife related land use activities, e.g., tundra vehicles for polar bear viewing.

3.1i Through legislation provide for fines and penalties to ensure legal wild animal use activities, e.g., hunting, trapping, bird watching are protected from undue interference.

3.1j Identify legal, administrative, and structural barriers and develop programs, processes or legislation to minimize the impact of these barriers on environmentally sound wildlife related development.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 3.1

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Policy 3.1	81%	13%	6%
Application 3.1aa	74%	15%	10%
Application 3.1ab	77%	14%	9%
Application 3.1ac	77%	13%	9%
Application 3.1ad	49%	24%	27%
Application 3.1ba	71%	19%	10%
Application 3.1bb	69%	17%	14%
Application 3.1bc	72%	18%	10%
Application 3.1bd	72%	21%	7%
Application 3.1be	67%	27%	6%
Application 3.1bf	80%	16%	5%
Application 3.1ca	77%	16%	7%
Application 3.1cb	67%	19%	13%
Application 3.1cc	75%	12%	12%
Application 3.1cd	77%	15%	8%
Application 3.1d	77%	15%	8%
Application 3.1ea	78%	19%	4%
Application 3.1eb	78%	16%	5%
Application 3.1f	78%	15%	7%
Application 3.1g	73%	16%	11%
Application 3.1h	61%	23%	15%
Application 3.1i	87%	9%	3%
Application 3.1j	82%	15%	3%

- Prefer reducing non-resident hunting.
- The important word should be "sustainable."
- Sustainable economic development-an oxymoron?
- If sustainability is determined based on consultation and not study, facilitation of industrial uses of animals / plants could be detrimental to the ecosystem.
  More study should be required prior to this step.
- I don't agree with non-resident hunting, especially in view of the 2 hunters, 1 tag system.
- As long as the individual hunter is not neglected and all government policies favour the outfitters; it should be not more than half in the direction of the outfitter.
- A requirement exists to acknowledge the special requirements of the disabled who wish to participate in the outdoor experience.
- Ecotourism ok, non-resident hunting no.
- Ecotourism and hunting are two opposing issues, but you lump them together. Ecotourism does not harm the population.

- Antlers may be shed antlers or from licensed hunters' game.
- Commercial operators should not receive higher benefit through access control than would higher priority users.
- Zoos are not wildlife.
- I feel there should be consultation not only with the wildlife based businesses but also the individual hunters and public.
- And NGO's.
- Perhaps not government's role.
- I don't agree with selling of live wild animals.
- Lots to offer!
- Too much "viewing" can affect the animals / area used.
- Rural forum, etc.
- At what cost?
- Thinking of the future!
- The Aboriginal community should not be considered a separate entity.
- Add farmers.
- To everyone.
- Removal of commercial numbers of the species affects local ecosystems.
- Only if there is a value-added benefit to the community and province.
- Appropriately designated lands -unsure what these are.
- Without a road.
- Owl surveys, breeding bird surveys.
- Not at expense of users.
- No zoos. Have you seen the animals in the zoo? They look unhealthy. Get schools to do more/show videos / have kids go out into the field.
- Economic development opportunities—define.
- Hunters are being discouraged due to gun control and activist activities. In time the wildlife will suffer as a result. Young generations are not becoming hunters. Too many women are "anti." As a woman hunter, I am aware of these issues and see a need for change.
- Should also include opportunities related to non-consumptive use as well as resident hunting.
- What about trapping experience? Possible opportunity in this area.
- The Aboriginal community should not be considered as a separate entity, but should be included as part of the others.
- Lots of discussion and public input needed on this. There are other ways also.
- Are tundra buggies not negatively affecting the tundra?
- I'm not convinced that hunting opportunity outweighs the consideration for killing opportunity in the minds of most hunters. These additional "opportunities" are often granted at the expense of the "majority rifle" hunter.
- One 1/2 of a moose or elk is plenty of meat for one family.
- In certain areas, other areas, 1 tag 1 hunter.
- It is imperative that illegal interference be stopped and penalties in place for such action.
- Very important in future. Our right to hunt has to be protected from extremist groups. Very good idea.
- Big fines, penalties to deter!

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Arborg, Ashern and Dauphin.

- Agree with policy but not at the expense of agriculture.
- No concerns with developing wildlife resources, again as long as no damage to property.
- Concern with bear baiting close to livestock, not only attracts bear but also wolf.
- Ask permission from lessee to bait on leased lands.
- Bed & breakfast should meet your standards as outfitters.
- Increase non-resident licenses and encourage more outfitters.
- Producers be allotted 6 licenses to utilize on their herds, deer or elk.
- General agreement with objective with conditions.

- Concern about rates of use and sustainability (and allocation of Policy 2).
- Hunters want input on all management decisions concerning wildlife, especially where tourists are concerned.
- Elk ranching - against ranching because of lost opportunity for hunters and hunting in captivity.
- Hunting of big game should hold a very high priority because that encourages habitat and population.
- No public grazing on wildlife management areas.
- Better management of licensed outfitters. Too many in smaller areas. Too many non-residents meaning lost opportunity for residents.
- Concerns for over-harvest considering winter kill of deer.
- Continue to have input to partnerships so that all user groups have access.
- Less special draws due to abuse by special interest groups. More general seasons for resident hunters.
- The right to hunt without harassment from resource officers and special interest groups.
- Agree with 1 tag - 2 hunter system, but price has to reflect 1 tag. E.g., $48 for 2 licenses.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comment were recorded at workshops in Ashern, Churchill, Pine Falls, Thompson, Virden and Winkler.

- Important to recognize that wildlife is important part of local, not just the provincial, economy.
- An idea is to promote paid hunting on private agricultural land.
- Expand the opportunities for hunting, e.g., longer seasons.
- Perhaps hunting opportunities should be increased.
- Educate and promote trapping as a way of life.
- The economic value of non-resident hunting is over-rated.
- Bed & breakfast people should have to follow the same rules as outfitters (they by-pass the lodges and outfitting rules).
- Reduce rules to common sense. Don't add more rules.

SUGGESTED POLICY 3.2:

Compatible environmentally sound and sustainable economic development of appropriate designated wildlife lands shall be promoted.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

3.2a Define its role in the potential development, marketing and use of designated wildlife lands.

3.2b Identify and encourage opportunities for development which is sustainable both environmentally and economically and which can be implemented by the private sector or local communities.

3.2c Develop or permit the development of compatible infrastructure on designated wildlife lands, including parking lots, viewing towers, trappers cabins (in remote areas), in order to encourage wildlife viewing, eco-tourism, hunting and trapping.

3.2d Market designated wildlife lands as tourist destinations.

3.2e Control land use activities and developments in designated wildlife lands with the objective of reducing, minimizing or eliminating the negative effects of development.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 3.2

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Policy 3.2	77%	15%	9%
Application 3.2a	74%	17%	9%
Application 3.2b	70%	24%	7%
Application 3.2c	70%	18%	13%
Application 3.2d	72%	16%	12%
Application 3.2e	85%	14%	2%

- Economic development of designated wildlife lands forced animals to more remote areas.
- Development—no please.
- Trappers no! "Cabins in remote areas" no! "Hunting and trapping" no!
- Europeans love to see / view and spend money!
- Very important.
- Care must be taken here to ensure that peoples' livelihoods will not be at risk to create wildlife viewing, etc.
- Eliminate yes.

Group Workshop Comments

The following comments were made at the workshop in Arborg.

- Against economic development on wildlife management areas, without consultation with resident hunters.
- Increase wildlife areas strictly for wildlife only, no fiascoes like Hecla Island.
- Only temporary camps be allowed on designated hunting and viewing areas.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Ashern, Portage la Prairie and Winkler.

- Wildlife Management Areas don't provide much revenue to rural municipalities because they are undeveloped – big problem with some rural municipalities with a large number of Wildlife Management Areas.
- Concern with how to prevent some poor examples of grazing, especially in riparian areas.
- Concern with cattle using riparian areas.

SUGGESTED POLICY 3.3:

Prices for the development and use of wild plant and animal resources shall reflect their environmental, social and economic values.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

3.3a Develop, in consultation with the public, full cost accounting methodologies for resource pricing that include environmental, economic and social values. These methodologies will be used to establish prices, fees and royalties for use of wild plant and animal resources.

3.3b Set fees, royalties and charges for the use of wildlife, designated wildlife lands and Crown lands and facilities at levels which reflect costs and capture resource rent, while considering current economics and competition with other jurisdictions.

3.3c Set licence fees for wildlife use that reflect the cost of administering provincial wildlife use programs.

3.3d To reduce costs and prices, design and implement a multi-year licensing system which will include hunting, trapping, non-resident, and commercial wild animal use licences.

3.3e Identify and implement alternative funding sources for wildlife and habitat management programs.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 3.3

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Policy 3.3	66%	25%	9%
Application 3.3a	57%	30%	14%
Application 3.3b	56%	28%	16%
Application 3.3c	55%	25%	20%
Application 3.3d	57%	21%	22%
Application 3.3e	81%	16%	3%

- Implement fees for non-resident outfitters and agricultural use on wildlife lands soon.
- Don't overcharge so that it is just a high income opportunity.
- Presently license fees and hunting costs have increased so dramatically that with many people hunting, it's not feasible anymore. I.e., gun registration, safety courses, license fees, facility licenses. To date these licenses have generated a lot of money for government administration. Increasing would quickly defeat its purpose.
- Caution must be exercised here: "What is here today may rapidly be gone tomorrow."
- I am not sure where you are going here. In previous sections you were proposing to do a lot for wildlife which would cost a lot of money. In this section, you are proposing to increase license fees to recover these costs? This would certainly cut down on the number of hunters.
- Inefficiencies will cost user.
- Does this mean license fees are going up on a per animal royalty?
- I disagree - what others / competition or jurisdictions or even economics are, should not reflect on the importance of an area. It may not reflect its true value in a less valuable area. If it's important - fees should be as such.
- Note that with no access restrictions, grazers have increased costs, that may not be readily apparent.
- Keep costs affordable to user (resident), make up shortfall with non-resident.
- Why does this apply only to hunting? Caribou hunters are penalized (resident and non-resident) $100 and $750 respectively for wanting to shoot a second caribou to cover administration costs. Polar bear viewing, which is far more destructive to the ecosystem than hunting, has no fee in place to recover the horrendous cost of monitoring bear populations. Why do photographers and viewers not have to pay a fee to use our ecosystem? Who will pay to clean up the damage they do which is much greater than any hunter or fisherman? They are consuming our resources, make them pay their share!
- User fees?
- Only if non-consumptive users are equally treated.
- It is hopeful that the Department of Natural Resources will not place much emphasis on social values when regarding wildlife use. The Department of Natural Resources does support wildlife use activities on a smaller scale, in terms of participants. If a fee was set for administration costs for these small groups, the fee would be so high as to prevent the small groups (which use wildlife resources) from continuing to exist.
- License costs can offset administration costs but gradual increases in license costs will decrease the hunting population, which is not desirable. Management of Crown wildlife lands.
- If revenue raised went to wildlife programs, would agree.
- No elk ranching or converting of any wildlife to domestic stock.
- Trappers should be the only ones with multi-year licenses.
- You cannot issue multi-year licenses, there must be a control each year depending upon the health of populations. A multi-year license gives a hunter permission to hunt without knowledge of population circumstances of each season, because his license was not prohibited.
- No compensation for cancellation of permit!
- Careful!

Group Workshop Comments

The following comment was made at the workshop in Arborg.

- Lower hunting license fees with a multi-year license system.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Portage la Prairie, Thompson and Virden.

- Pricing should reflect resource fairness.
- Rising cost of licences is driving hunters away.
- If fur prices are low, royalties should be low – flexible royalty rates.
- Royalties should be tied to prices, e.g., percentage.
- Possible charge on licence rather than royalties.
- Should be an explanation of how trapping royalties are spent.
- Landowners support resource but are asked to purchase hunting licence on top of it.

SUGGESTED POLICY 3.4:

Use of wild animal and plant resources shall be encouraged where it is a viable economic food alternative.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

3.4a In partnership with stakeholders, develop information and education programs promoting the use of wildlife resources as a supplemental and alternative food source in remote northern communities.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 3.4

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Policy 3.4	69%	21%	9%
Application 3.4a	71%	19%	10%

- You folks have got to get out more often.
- Without threatening the species by over use.
- Caution must be exercised here "What is here today may rapidly be gone tomorrow."
- I agree only if you can rigidly maintain the "remote northern community" clause.
- Cannot those remote residents do it themselves?
- Need to teach how and will need to re-teach and help alter attitude of the youth! Chips need to come off shoulders.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comment was recorded at the workshop in Winkler.

- More tags could be benefit to charities that need food to distribute.

SUGGESTED POLICY 3.5:

Labour and management skills for use in wild animal and plant-based industries shall be enhanced through training and education.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

3.5a Partner and work with the various wildlife related industries to identify the management, technical and labour skills required, to enhance employment opportunities and the economic viability of the enterprise.

3.5b Develop partnerships and encourage the development of and promote existing university, community college and school programs which provide education and training needs for professional wildlife management and wildlife based industries.

3.5c Continue to encourage and support community and trapping association apprenticeship and on-the-job training opportunities and programs.

3.5d Encourage the entrance of Aboriginal persons into training and education programs directed at opportunities in the area of resource management and enforcement.

3.5e Identify and eliminate barriers to the admission of Aboriginal persons to education and training programs and courses in the field of wildlife management and enforcement.

3.5f Provide within government departments on-the-job training programs for Aboriginal persons directly and indirectly related to wildlife management and enforcement.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 3.5

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Policy 3.5	74%	20%	4%
Application 3.5a	74%	20%	6%
Application 3.5b	82%	14%	4%
Application 3.5c	84%	11%	5%
Application 3.5d	74%	17%	9%
Application 3.5e	64%	19%	17%
Application 3.5f	62%	18%	21%

- Already done. There are no barriers that they have not set up themselves.
- Done. I thought this was and has been already dealt with!
- Political correctness sucks - why must we key on one specific segment of our society. We should be encouraging anyone, regardless of race, creed, or color - a simple idea that a lot of people seem to have a hard time grasping these days.
- With the present states of natives and their use of "our" natural resources, further exploitation will decimate our resources.
- Doesn't make sense.
- Is this a necessity?
- Education programs only for wildlife management.
- Trapping, other than for recreation is a lost cause.
- Not at the expense of others; all should be considered equal.
- Why them more than anyone else?
- All natives should receive this education. We need more enforcement for Aboriginals because there are far too many cases of abuse and mismanagement. It doesn't take 13 deer to feed 3 people for 1 winter. Limits must be enforced just as they are on the general public.
- These are now heavily favored towards Aboriginals. Make them equally available to non-aboriginals.
- When they show interest in wildlife management, then and only then, get them on board.
- All persons shall meet common requirements regarding education and background checks.
- This has been going on for some time. It's a political football which is not productive. To reduce minimum qualifications, does the Aboriginal community a disservice by providing inferior programs.
- What barriers?
- I wasn't aware of any barriers.
- Not if it means lowering standards.
- A standard must be maintained. To revert to the lowest common denominator would allow some individuals who would have difficulty in comprehending the objectives of the program.
- Why just them?
- Formal Natural Resource Officer training required.
- This training should include traditional ecological knowledge.
- Should be available to all interested.
- Why only Aboriginal (equal rights again).
- We all could use some on-the-job-training, no matter color or race, if one's a resident in Manitoba. Being so prejudiced and just siding with Aboriginals won't cut it in this province. Times have changed!

Group Workshop Comments

The following comment was made at the workshop in Dauphin.

- Cited concerns over Louisiana Pacific's unsustainable use of plants (trees) as a plant-based industry supported by the Manitoba government.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Ashern and Little Grand Rapids.

- Outfitters should be required to take training.
- Sustainable development money needed for employment of native people in the industry.

General Questionnaire Comments on Policy Area 3

- As long as resident hunters would not lose any harvest allocations, I would agree with expanding non-resident hunting opportunities.
- There should be no rape of nature's animals and plant life. There must always be controls and heavy penalties for those that break them.
- Don't make fees so high for wildlife lands use that local people can't afford it. After all it is their legacy as citizens of Manitoba.
- Ecotourism should not be grouped with non-resident hunting. Ecotourism does not usually conserve wildlife, whereas hunting does. Promoting the capture and sale of our wildlife is unacceptable. The valuing of the ecology / habitat / wildlife by market pricing is questionable. These things have intrinsic value like the air we breathe or the sun and rain we enjoy...these do not go to the "highest bidder"...
- I agree that natives should be encouraged to train in the fields of wildlife management and enforcement. However I don't believe that natives should be given any priority in these fields. If a native is more qualified for the job than anyone else, he should definitely be given the job. However, if he is less qualified, the job should be given to the most qualified individual.
- Greater emphasis should be placed on bringing in non-resident hunters to Manitoba to harvest our black bear over-population and pay for our white tail non-resident hunting which is proven to be financially viable.
- I don't feel Aboriginal peoples should be given preferential treatment for job training. Cost to benefit ratio is too high.
- I strongly believe in wildlife conservation, but it sounds like you people are trying to put a price on everything and it sounds like it's going to cost a lot of money. The license fees for hunting are already going through the roof. You keep on raising licenses and you won't have any hunters left!
- Entrance qualifications to any education and training programs should remain in place and be the same for all races and religions.
- I feel the government should put the trap line officer position back in this area. We have to educate the schools and the people on humane trapping and better pelt preparation, and have more on-the-job training programs to have better management and enforcement to protect the habitat and wildlife from over-harvesting.
- Control on Aboriginal harvest must be addressed. There are more and more treaty cards every year, less and less habitat and less and less opportunity for the guys buying the licenses. You can't try and develop more non-resident alien hunting, native hunting by reducing resident hunting and putting their fees up on licenses.
- Non-consumption wildlife industries - such as birding etc. - should be a user-payer system such as a hunting or trapping license. Buyer pays for the right to use the resources. Train all persons, regardless of race. Equality at access.
- We need a university in northern Manitoba to encourage northerners to become involved.
- Aboriginals must compete on a level playing field for these jobs!
- Aboriginal people are the biggest abusers of wildlife I have ever seen. Boat loads of spring geese left to rot, hind legs of moose taken only, cow and calf moose shot and left in water. Pelicans in north by Cross Lake shot by dozens just for fun, the living ones were cut up with axes. Largest fish, moose, etc competition held in Norway House this last year. Results were published in local Aboriginal paper.
- Watch closely we don't run into legislating or enhancing population directives, business opportunities in specific areas to the point of one group of people over another. "Fair opportunities."
- Regardless of race, we need to keep educating and keeping man in general involved in all these aspects (hunting, trapping, habitat management, etc.). As man is still important in the chain of everyday life even if some people disagree.
- I don't like to commercialize wildlife and plants but if we do then we need strong rules to govern them (commercial users).
- Aboriginal attitudes towards taking game animals at night must be changed. These is no reason why this is still permitted. The law was there at a time when artificial lighting did not exist.

- Accountability for this must be rigorously maintained. Too much money is just thrown into areas with no follow-up or accountability.
- Promotion of non-consumptive tourist activities is important as this has potential to become a major industry. It is more important to encourage activity at this stage than it is to license and regulate.
- I really think to educate people on wildlife and the environment, the place is not a university. It should be done with the people on the land.
- Focus on non-consumptive uses and expand there. Do not promote consumptive uses (hunting, trapping, gathering).
- One area that has been overlooked in the past but has more recently come into the forefront is the economic value of wildlife and resources. Manitoba has a significant opportunity to increase/promote the use of wilderness resources. Hunters, in the past, have largely contributed licensing fees in natural resources uses. It is only fair the other users, either consumptive or non-consumptive, be asked to make a minor to moderate monetary contribution to support Manitoba wildlife policies.
- Economic development is okay, but at a limit to the exploitation of the resource.
- The harvesting of snakes, frogs, antlers, plants, etc. should have separate legislation. Snake and frog are living and subject to population fluctuation. Antlers are shed every year and collecting them does not affect the animal population.
- I believe enough wildlife habitat has already been developed and accessed to accommodate all economic users. The province should maximize what resources are already available to them and keep the wilderness areas undisturbed. Promotion of wildlife in Manitoba is economically important. But to see more invasion and development into the wilderness is too steep a price and environmentally wrong. I've seen all the province (except Churchill) and I know there exists opportunities today to explore wildlife in all varieties of habitats.
- Conservation of populations is first. We have a long way to go before we can sustainably implement policy #3.
- To encourage wildlife and plant use is not conservation. Populations would be more sustainable from limited use than continued increasing harvest pressure if it is left unchecked. Population fluctuations should affect harvest which can be controlled better with present numbers of hunters and fluctuating bag limits instead of encouraging more participation. Over use of a resource scares me but as in snow goose numbers, under use of this resource can also be damaging. Management of populations is difficult because of the many variables sometimes unforeseen.
- I agree with the above training only if you plan to treat all persons the same. Our native people are destroying much faster than our government can repair. Wake up.
- With multi-year licensing, can license be revoked if infraction occurs before expiry date?
- While I believe that there are vast untapped opportunities in our wonderful natural environment, I also strongly believe that we don't fully consider our actions when we exploit them. More care must be taken when developing so as to minimize the ecological impact.
- Aboriginals should have no more right to wildlife than any other Manitoban. The hunter already pays their fair share. To increase the tags would make it a rich man's sport and I feel it is the right of all Manitobans to hunt.
- Some kind of weekend workshops need to be developed and held in a rural area so that the urban population, (many of whom have never been "to the country") are exposed to the economic reality, can actually have an opportunity to tour the many beautiful areas of our province. We need to create a demand, seems as we keep it a secret. There is life beyond the television and computer.
- Elk should be trapped and sold if they damage agricultural production? Or reduced.
- Aboriginals are to be treated the same as residents. Reptiles should not be harvested, except for residents who may consume them. Manitoba should enact the so-called "hunter harassment protection laws" so that hunter cannot be harassed. License fees shall be "fair" and reflect species numbers and other region prices, etc. $100 second Caribou license for residents is way too much, $18 for second deer is fair.
- Full cost accounting is too subjective to be used in determining fees, as there is no incentive to control costs. Some proposed programs are "luxuries" which should not be paid for by resource users. Harvesting

for other than subsistence or economic purposes is questionable. Promotion of additional wildlife viewing (disturbance) is contrary to plan for protection. In particular programs of tagging are questionable as this places very high stresses on the animal being tagged.

- Habitat preservation should be the primary consideration and profits the last.
- Resource management and enforcement may create jobs in northern communities which is much needed.
- Some form of licensing for Aboriginal usage would put some economic input from them into the system. Non-aboriginals pay in many ways and resent non-paying Aboriginals having first access to wildlife resources.
- We need more places that are left to nature. No hunting, no motor vehicles, no building. That will appeal to a particular type of ecotourist.
- We are concerned about leasing rights to commercial operators on tracts of Crown land that should be open to the resident and Aboriginals before the commercial operators.
- Beating a dead horse - the fur industry? Rewards for illegality - elk ranching.
- I recently hunted turkeys in Nebraska. Although I was raised in Manitoba, current laws prevent me from hunting many species and seasons. If you are to promote economic development, I suggest you consider Canadians and non-Canadians accessing special permits.
- Aboriginal persons have more opportunities already for job training programs, if they want it.
- The Department continues to promote angling in various venues, when will hunting be accorded the same initiative? Hunting must be actively promoted as a sustainable, enjoyable activity.
- Promote environmentally sound business yes, (e.g., lumber, pulp, etc.) but not exploit wildlife. Wildlife should not be for sale! e.g., capture of elk in Swan River for purpose of selling into captivity.
- With respect to tundra buggies, multi-year licences must be dependant on trail and habitat maintenance. More effective and diligent policing of the area during the season is needed and where trails are not adhered to, licences should be revoked.
- Wildlife must not be jeopardized by trying to increase its economic value. These populations have an inherent value. Activities such as building infrastructure to gain access to wildlife populations for consumptive or non-consumptive uses must be done in such a way as not to impact these same populations. We do not have to milk every living animal for its "economic worth"!
- Aboriginals have no barriers when it comes to education. All they have to do is finish their schooling. Their university tuition is paid for by our tax dollars.
- Should be best person for job, regardless of ancestry. What barriers are you referring to? There are not really any, however, there are self-made barriers, is this what you mean? Have any of you ever lived in an Aboriginal community? "Walk a mile in someone else's shoes!"
- I don't think government should be so involved in all these issues. Spend time in enforcing present regulations rather than creating more regulations and civil service jobs.

Group Workshop Comments on Policy Area 3

The following are comments made at the workshop in Brandon.

- Wildlife funds should not be spent to market Manitoba.
- A system should be made where the wild life funds marketing and works with wild life management.
- Department wild life should not promote industries in collecting / harvesting of snakes, frogs, antlers, etc.
- Department should spend more energy in promoting resident hunting.
- Protect harassment of hunters. Severe penalties to harassers—fines/jail time.
- Licence fees-increases have the potential to escalate into an unaffordable pastime.
- Farmers being reimbursed for crop damage.
- Shooting bear indiscriminately and calling it "protecting my crops."
- Why pay farmers for crop damage when they do not allow hunters to control wildlife in the area?
- Wildlife should have the same importance whether bear, deer, elk, snake, butterfly.

Policy Area 4: Planning and Integrated Management

SUGGESTED POLICY 4.1:

Manitoba shall work towards the establishment of an ecosystem-based approach to resource management and planning.

Applications: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

4.1a Evaluate, provide training for and consider realignment of staffing and financial resources to allow for more effective integrated ecosystem-based management, including:

a. integrated water, forest, fish, land and wildlife planning and management,

b. centralized data collection and analysis,

c. integrated multi-disciplinary teams for project management,

d. training of staff.

4.1b Undertake ecosystem-based management pilot projects.

4.1c Develop partnerships and facilitate, encourage and undertake research into ecosystem-based management; publish results and disseminate information.

4.1d Foster the establishment of and enhance existing integrated planning and management structures and processes between government departments and between the Government of Manitoba and other jurisdictions.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 4.1

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Policy 4.1	86%	10%	2%
Application 4.1aa	90%	8%	2%
Application 4.1ab	87%	11%	2%
Application 4.1ac	86%	11%	3%
Application 4.1ad	88%	10%	2%
Application 4.1b	84%	14%	2%
Application 4.1c	84%	13%	2%
Application 4.1d	83%	15%	3%

- Be careful, re: centralized data collection. Data must be controlled for specific purposes or it is of limited value; central storage yes!
- Interdepartmental as well.
- Ecosystem is a word to be careful with. We have eliminated 89% of natural habitat in southern Manitoba, and now manage a totally different ecosystem than 100 years ago. Wildlife had adapted to agriculture, we must manage what is here. A total natural ecosystem is impossible. Install people in decision-making positions that are realists, not dreamers.
- Pilot - is this necessary?
- NGOs.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Flin Flon, Swan River, Thompson and Winnipeg.

- Government staff area spread too thin. Don't have the proper training.
- Utilize advice from private enterprise experts who normally deal with government departments.
- Agreement made that in the past some research project results have not effectively been presented to the general public-in the future better distribution of conclusions would be appropriate and needed.
- Overall agreement with concept of integrating management as outlined in 4.1.
- Development of boundaries for ecosystem. Concern on funding - what constitutes a user?
- Robertson - Pittman type user fee to provide funding to finance the management of the resource.
- Local management based on local ecosystem.
- Natural boundaries (i.e., watersheds) should form the boundaries for all.
- Natural boundaries will be shared between all disciplines to provide for planning and input.
- Lofty goal - but is it really possible?
- Reorganization of department, seems appropriate.
- Centralized data source – provincially / nationally / internationally.
- Partnership approach is critical.
- Question remains - If we implement ecosystem-based management - what will happen differently on the Manitoba landscape?

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Ashern, Boissevain, Churchill, Portage la Prairie, Russell and Virden.

- Money from other agricultural uses should be turned back to Crown land development, e.g., wildlife habitat improvement.
- Licensing revenues should go to wildlife management.
- There are too few enforcement officers.
- Must be more funding for wildlife programs.
- Policies are useless without staff and funding.
- There is a lack of staff for wildlife management and enforcement.
- Must be more Natural Resources staffing.
- Government must back the policies with staff.
- Natural Resources is very under-staffed.
- Moneys for draw licence applications not going towards wildlife.
- Department of Natural Resources needs a lot more funds to manage its Wildlife Management Areas.
- All funds from conservation stamp should go to conservation.
- Government should have a native grasslands management specialist.
- Demonstration projects are valuable to show what you can do with grazing and how it benefits wildlife.
- There will always be problems unless Department of Agriculture works with other departments.
- There are problems with national parks management.
- Management should be a combination of federal, provincial and local authorities and users.

SUGGESTED POLICY 4.2:

Develop, maintain and implement a provincial system plan for wildlife which shall consider, address and integrate wildlife, habitat, social, economic, health and environmental factors.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

4.2a Prepare a provincial ecosystem-based wildlife system plan which:

a. establishes system goals, including the protection and enhancement of biological diversity, land requirements, priorities and population targets;

b. identifies indicator wildlife species and identifies the uses of wildlife and designated wildlife lands for which a charge or fee shall be instituted;

c. provides for public, industry, the agricultural community, community round table, stakeholder and Aboriginal community participation in planning and defines their role in development and monitoring of the system plan and various management plans;

d. provides for the ongoing evaluation of the system plan and required individual management plans and the reporting of the effectiveness of those plans to the public on a regular basis;

e. establishes the purposes of designated wildlife lands and establish a land zoning classification system which describes permitted land and resource uses and multiple use;

f. requires integrated ecosystem-based management plans for individual designated wildlife lands which recognizes and honours existing property rights and other legal obligations and which considers and addresses such things as:

- *biological diversity,*
- *ecosystem processes and protection of species at risk,*
- *needs, aspirations and concerns of local residents,*
- *traditional uses and use patterns and recreational activities and aesthetics;*

g. requires individual management plans for species, such as those i) at risk; ii) economically important and harvested, iii) indicator species, and iv) those posing a danger to health or property. These plans should:

- *establish population and range targets and links population with the requirements for provincial, federal, municipal and private lands,*
- *establish appropriate management techniques and actions to be taken,*
- *identify monitoring, research and data requirements, reflect local and regional concerns, and ensure the areas are managed to minimize adverse effects on other species;*

h. recognizes that, in most cases, designated wildlife lands will be available to fulfil treaty land entitlement and Northern Flood Agreement commitments, if required.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 4.2

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Policy 4.2	87%	11%	2%
Application 4.2aa	84%	14%	2%
Application 4.2ab	55%	25%	21%
Application 4.2ac	78%	17%	5%
Application 4.2ad	80%	14%	5%
Application 4.2ae	80%	15%	5%
Application 4.2afi	83%	14%	2%
Application 4.2afii	85%	13%	3%
Application 4.2afiii	82%	16%	4%
Application 4.2afiv	75%	18%	7%
Application 4.2agi	90%	7%	4%
Application 4.2agii	87%	8%	4%
Application 4.2agiii	85%	11%	4%
Application 4.2agiv	86%	9%	5%
Application 4.2ag(i)	86%	9%	5%
Application 4.2ag(ii)	86%	11%	3%
Application 4.2ag(iii)	85%	13%	3%
Application 4.2ag(iv)	85%	13%	3%
Application 4.2ag(v)	86%	12%	3%
Application 4.2ah	40%	22%	38%

- Areas such as Wildlife Management Areas have a "Prior Commitment" and are therefore not available for Treaty Land Entitlement or Northern Flood. Other designated lands of critical importance should be "Prior Commitment" as well.
- Plan is much too elaborate, question if it is doable. Also need stakeholder involvement or they won't accept product. Lastly a plan is only a plan - must implement and obtain products!
- Local residents?
- Needs of residents and traditional local use should not undermine biological / ecosystem requirements.
- This item should identify and specifically deal with (include) feral and imported exotic species.
- A charge or fee - a money grab - what does it mean?
- No more Round Table. Not too much people don't really seem to care.
- Two different things!
- Some designated wildlife lands need zoning for no development uses. Some wildlife lands need to have existing rights bought out by the government to preserve the remaining integrity of the lands.
- Can this be done and not in value 4.2g i through iv?
- For species at risk.
- Should be lower priority than the animals' welfare.

- Treaty obligations are unclear. They should be fulfilled to correspond to their original intent, not as interpreted by government appointed lawyers and judges who often stand to benefit by prolonging them or by changing their intent. Billions of dollars spent through Indian Affairs and by provincial government over the past two decades should be taken into account as far as land settlements and extinguishment of demands go.
- Treaty rights should not extend to placing species / habitats at risk.
- Not at the expense of species management and sustainable populations.
- As long as the harvests make ecological sense, i.e., no hunting of moose in spring when they are calving.
- Giving Aboriginal hunters exclusive rights to hunting, fishing or access to regulated areas (provincial lands) over non-aboriginals will only promote animosity between both groups. All parties must have equal input. E.g., Spruce Woods elk season - unregulated native hunting has ruined the elk season there.
- If a species is at risk, it is at risk from all stakeholders, not just the ones that normally pay for management and rehabilitation activities, i.e., tax payers and license holders!
- Hopefully these will be dealt with but then the First Nations must also adhere to the rules and regulations!
- Too costly, perhaps every 10 years unless there is an emergency situation (botulism, etc.).

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Swan River and Winnipeg.

- Agreement with government incentives to landowners and farmers in order to facilitate wildlife protection may work effectively and be needed, i.e., a landowner / farmer in general will be happy to modify their activities to accommodate wildlife if it doesn't cost them!
- Fees-fish and wildlife licences for non-resident (non-Canadian) could potentially be raised - may increase the catch-per-unit effort of local hunters and fishermen by reducing foreign take. Would provide increased income as well to the province.
- Agreement that public consultation on sale of Crown lands should take place. Our parkland appears to be shrinking and we felt that it is an important value to protect and not to sell off with little or no public consultation.
- Systems Plan - what is it?
- How does this relate to 4.1 - ecosystem-based approach?
- Seems to contradict the ecosystem approach.
- How does the System Plan link to other planning processes in Manitoba?

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Ashern, Boissevain, Churchill, Portage la Prairie, Virden and Winkler.

- Short-term grazing is ok – should be used as a tool for habitat management.
- There is no real problem at the local level, the problem is at the regional and provincial level. Wildlife and people will suffer.
- Manitoba Cattle Producers Association concerned that agriculture be maintained in a sustainable fashion, land not taken out of production, Crown lands be kept in production.
- Why not have a commercial white-tail slaughter in problem areas?
- There is an ongoing problem with leafy spurge. There has probably been more habitat lost to leafy spurge than to drainage in the area.
- Department of Natural Resources should get more involved in spurge beetle release.
- Conservation efforts on private land should be done through cooperation, not by legislation, of landowners.
- Regional Department of Natural Resources staff meet with local wildlife groups but often don't give what is requested.
- Must look at the whole environment around Churchill.
- Time to review Cape Churchill Wildlife Management Area management guidelines.
- Need to take a holistic approach to agriculture and wildlife.

SUGGESTED POLICY 4.3:

All land use and resource plans shall address and integrate relevant issues related to wildlife resources.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

4.3a Review and revise, as required, existing provincial plans by identifying and addressing wildlife resource issues.

4.3b Review existing planning processes and ensure wildlife resources are integrated into those processes.

4.3c Review and amend as required all relevant planning and management legislation to ensure wildlife resources are identified and taken into account.

4.3d Review existing project and program planning, approval and licensing processes to ensure wildlife resources are considered and the sustainability of the resource is protected.

4.3e Prepare, in partnership and in consultation with industry, the Aboriginal and agricultural communities, stakeholders and the public, wildlife resource guidelines and management practices for use in such activities and projects as road planning and construction, land clearing, forestry operation and subdivision design and construction.

4.3f Ensure acceptable compliance of wildlife requirements identified in plans and legislation.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 4.3

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Policy 4.3	86%	10%	4%
Application 4.3a	85%	14%	1%
Application 4.3b	85%	13%	2%
Application 4.3c	85%	13%	3%
Application 4.3d	88%	9%	2%
Application 4.3e	85%	13%	3%
Application 4.3f	88%	10%	2%

- More focus required on the agricultural sector. More large areas of radical habitat impact than any other resource industry, with very little consideration given to occupying species prior to land clearing.
- Great idea, but isn't this beyond scope of wildlife act?
- If this is legislated, make sure it is enforced!
- Drainage improvements.
- Take a common sense approach to these areas and make rules flexible to fit individual cases.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Thompson and Winnipeg.

- Include all Wildlife Management Areas and wilderness areas - under the ecosystem model, resources may be better managed for multiple users and groups.
- We hope so!
- Has this always been the case? Is this a change in policy or the status quo?
- Specifically 4.3e, this sounds like a good idea but how will it all happen?
- Such as road reclamation.
- Enforcement?

SUGGESTED POLICY 4.4:

Resolution mechanisms shall be established to address conflicts over the use of wildlife resources and land.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

4.4a Utilize and establish, when appropriate, advisory boards in areas of ongoing resource conflict to anticipate conflicts and provide direction on how to resolve them.

4.4b Establish an independent wildlife appeal board, and define which types of conflicts and appeals the board will:

a. have final decision-making authority,

b. make recommendations to the minister who will make the final decision.

4.4c Continue to resolve departmental conflicts at the district or regional level and refer unresolved departmental conflicts to the Interdepartmental Planning Board for review and referral to the appropriate cabinet committee for a decision.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 4.4

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Policy 4.4	90%	9%	2%
Application 4.4a	86%	11%	6%
Application 4.4ba	68%	23%	9%
Application 4.4bb	73%	20%	7%
Application 4.4c	71%	22%	7%

- Need more authority than advisory capacity. If decisions are left to politicians then normally urban centers hold the power.
- In the end, the minister (who has the least qualifications to make these decisions) can override all of the other levels and even the legislation itself. This makes the whole elaborate system useless.
- Wildlife appeal board is over-bureaucratic and time-consuming. Prefer to have minister decide, with advice from advisory board.
- Not biologists alone.
- Cabinet committee decisions are too often determined by pressures from a few government numbers with vested interests (e.g., recent elk ranching decisions where friends and relatives of cabinet ministers were given preferential treatment).
- A board which is made up of 1 each government federal, provincial, Aboriginals, hunters, trappers, and fishermen, commercial and angler.
- Like night hunting by Aboriginals.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Dauphin and Winnipeg.

- Needs to be clearer. Advisory Boards, Appeal Boards what status will they have? Will their recommendations be followed? Will the Appeal Board be truly independent from the Minister? Need to be independent to be effective.
- Conflicts over resources and land.
- Very good initiative.
- Promote strongly but again will it work?
- Need for a native range land management specialist.

SUGGESTED POLICY 4.5:

Major wildlife management programs and projects shall be planned and managed in consultation with the public.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

4.5a Provide meaningful opportunities for the Aboriginal community, public, industry, the agricultural community, non-government organizations and user groups to participate in wildlife resource planning processes by:

a. giving all participants an equitable opportunity to participate and influence programs and projects,

b. ensuring timely and prior notification to those affected,

c. providing timely access to relevant information.

4.5b Develop mechanisms for ensuring public review of significant wildlife resource management practices that affect the sustainability of the resource.

4.5c Continue to require provincial government departmental review of specific wildlife resource plans.

4.5d Develop and implement mechanisms and processes for circulating new or revised information concerning existing and proposed programs and projects and changes to them to the Aboriginal community, public, industry, the agricultural community and stakeholders.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 4.5

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Policy 4.5	90%	7%	4%
Application 4.5aa	85%	12%	4%
Application 4.5ab	90%	9%	2%
Application 4.5ac	90%	9%	1%
Application 4.5b	90%	9%	1%
Application 4.5c	87%	13%	1%
Application 4.5d	86%	12%	2%

- Make it so Joe Public could understand.
- Involving public is important, but recommend keeping costs in staff time and costs at reasonable level. This involvement can easily consume a major part of our resources, some of which could be better spent on conservation and inventory activities.
- Who will be at these meetings? Large bunches of special interest groups?
- And user group consultation.
- Don't waste time and money on round tables.
- Without incurring substantial public cost.
- Government department should have a say but not elected officials
- Replace "specific" with "all." Provincial government may develop partnerships with other interest groups but that the individual hunter is also represented in even numbers in wildlife management plans and that the public and the provincial government have the final say if it goes or not.
- Something broader as in 4.3.
- And private sectors.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Swan River, Thompson and Winnipeg.

- We appreciate the opportunity to give our input into policy. In tonight's case, Policy 4.5 emphasizes our feelings. 4.5 outlines that the government recognizes the need and wants to provide meaningful opportunities for the public to participate in wildlife resource planning.
- Don't know where we are at or what present planning process entails.
- A greater degree of public education and background still may be needed in order to facilitate this meaningful input that the government desires.
- We found with our limited background we had some trouble understanding the high level meaning behind some of these proposed policies.
- Once again, thanks for the opportunity.
- Suggestion- topic leaders at each table to help keep groups on topic and facilitate good discussion.
- The public should be consulted but decisions should be based with consultation to local experts and local fishery and wildlife biologists, agricultural representatives, etc., who after consultation with all interested private input, make educated decision based upon scientific evidence.
- Good idea - aren't we already doing it?
- Define consultation - is it meaningful?
- 4.5a— Meaningful opportunities.

SUGGESTED POLICY 4.6:

Research and effective information management systems shall be used to improve the information base and support wildlife resource planning and decision making.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

4.6a Upgrade existing automated information and data management systems.

4.6b Pursue cooperative agreements and partnerships with other agencies in the research, development and enhancement of wildlife resource data bases and information systems.

4.6c Conduct inventories and input data into the information systems and monitor and report on the status of, including but not limited to, biological diversity, wildlife habitats and populations.

4.6d Develop partnerships and encourage and facilitate research into traditional and local ecological knowledge and integrate that knowledge into data bases.

4.6e Establish partnerships with conservation groups and other interested stakeholders and develop a model of risk to biological diversity, which would include:

- *measures of pressure including land cover, road access, human population parameters, industrial discharge, mineral extraction, sewage treatment, urbanization, forestry, agriculture, fragmentation and wildlife harvest;*
- *measures of sensitivity including species richness estimates, species at risk, ecosystem richness, climate and endemic species;*
- *remedial measures including protected areas, ecosystem protection, rehabilitation of damaged areas and pollution reduction.*

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 4.6

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Policy 4.6	88%	12%	1%
Application 4.6a	85%	14%	1%
Application 4.6b	88%	12%	0%
Application 4.6c	90%	10%	0%
Application 4.6d	82%	18%	0%
Application 4.6ea	90%	9%	1%
Application 4.6eb	85%	13%	1%
Application 4.6ec	88%	10%	2%

- I'm not excited about inventories, obtain one-point-in-time data that is usually very expensive to collect.
- Provide staff the resources and time to publish research results.
- This needs to be done economically.
- Conducting provincial inventories is essential, since data are minimal from many regions. I realize support for inventories is not as popular today as it was in the past. Some agencies (e.g., Illinois Biological Survey) are far advanced than Manitoba in knowledge of fauna and flora. Support more investigations.
- Partnership with trappers. The trappers are in the field and know animal populations better than anyone.
- Endemic species?
- Land drainage.
- Prevention and mitigation.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Dauphin and Winnipeg.

- Support for resource planning (e.g., limits + seasons) based on research.
- Research and effective management.
- Yes.
- Ecosystem-based is best.
- Can it really be done?
- Sounds intriguing-can it be made to work?

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comment was recorded at the workshop in Churchill.

- This Strategy does not take into account an ...awareness of the general lack of information and knowledge regarding biological diversity and the urgent need to develop scientific, technical and institutional capacities to provide the basic understanding upon which to plan and implement ...the Global Taxonomy Initiative...

SUGGESTED POLICY 4.7:

Manitoba shall work towards a provincial accounting system which includes and reports on the natural capital, including wildlife resources, of the province.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

4.7a Develop partnerships and encourage research into mechanisms to accurately assess the value of and the improvement or deterioration of provincial natural resources including wildlife resources.

4.7b Develop partnerships and encourage and support the efforts of the federal government in the development of national accounting processes and mechanisms to monitor and track the value of Canada's natural resources including wildlife resources.

4.7c Establish, adopt and regularly report on sustainability indicators which account for the value of provincial natural resources, including wildlife.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 4.7

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Policy 4.7	80%	16%	4%
Application 4.7a	79%	17%	4%
Application 4.7b	80%	15%	4%
Application 4.7c	81%	17%	3%

- The agricultural community needs to recognize their continuing role in helping to preserve the "natural capital" in southern Manitoba.
- Accounting system must acknowledge services. Ecosystem provides the economic system too.
- What does this section mean? This is "double-speak," "platitudes," a statement meant to appease everyone.
- Very important.
- Other values to be assessed and monitored include social, environmental and informal economic values.
- This is unworkable without cooperation with agriculture landowners.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Dauphin, Flin Flon and Winnipeg.

- Need to explain "natural capital." How is "natural capital" going to be used in management decisions?
- Probably useful - major industries have numbers on their side, the "wildlife resource" does not have numbers right now.
- There is a "non-consumptive" worth in addition to the consumptive values.
- Industry or resource user should supply some financial resources for resource auditing tools re: aerial surveys.
- Provincial Accounting System-sounds scary.
- Add value to wildlife resources.
- Get a number, but so what?
- Unclear.
- Are we moving beyond the realm of the possible?
- Who judges the value?
- How does this relate to the public's view of values?
- We would love to get a copy of the accounting system.
- Biological research-not yet at the point where we can do this accurately.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Boissevain, Churchill, Little Grand Rapids and Thompson.

- There are problems with forest management, guidelines are not followed.
- Environment is more than polar bears.
- Polar Bear Alert program seems reasonable.
- Remote cottages / outposts should be stopped.
- There are no policies regarding major land users in community resource areas.
- Resource management planning is needed in resource areas.

General Questionnaire
Comments on Policy Area 4

- My main concern with public input is now the public can be manipulated by the press or by the way questions are asked to affect the decision, i.e., loaded questions. I've found throughout different areas in this survey that I agree or disagree with part of the statement but not all.
- Where are you going to get the money to do all this? I believe that what "Hydro" did to the north should never be allowed to happen again. Our ignorance proved a disaster to the people in the north and the lands flooded forever.
- Why do you need to get an appraisal for something unless you plan to sell it?
- As said earlier "why 26 pages of charade questions"? If some "minister's" uncle wants to plough up a hundred acres of tall grass prairie, or build a hog farm next to my property, it's going to happen in spite of all the policies in the world.
- Ecosystem-based planning and management for habitat and wildlife enhancement is sound, and should be encouraged.
- Provincial government should work towards implementing proper hunting seasons surrounding the Riding Mountain National Park rather than the draw system or landowners misuse of this season.
- I think that the natural resources of this province should be managed by a separate cabinet or branch of government if you will. To ensure that it is being managed in its (natural resources) best interest, not some lobbyist-controlled politician.
- A complete waste of time this section.
- I feel there should be more representation on all wildlife management boards (Integrated Resource Management Team). The way it is now there is no voice to speak up for the Aboriginal people. We cannot be part of the planning if we are not at the table to speak for ourselves. Our livelihood should be governed from the office in Lac du Bonnet.
- I have read and support all of the suggested items in this book.
- Where is the government going to get all the money to form all those partnerships and programs? More taxation. I'm over-taxed now.
- Decision making should be up to partnership stakeholders, local groups etc. with the local and provincial government enforcing the end results of the final decisions.
- This area is developed to keep the head office staff in head office instead of getting out into the field to find out first-hand what's going on out there. You're way too desk heavy. You should have 3 or 4 in the field for every desk jockey.
- Should really look at not turning Crown lands over to agriculture, i.e., pasture etc. We should try to keep Crown lands for wildlife, not pass wildlife back to make more room for cattle etc. Also would help to control diseases from domestic animals.
- Awareness - Make the public aware of the hunting regulations that apply to Aboriginals. Most public does not know that night hunting with spotlights is open to natives. This law needs to be apprised.
- It's hard to believe the government would consider funding this and establishing policy when they have shown no interest in the northern part of the province except collect taxes and revenues from the large mining and logging companies. The government to date has not compensated "any" trapper for logging operations. The logging companies do what they want because the government don't care. Our enforcement in the north is non-existent because of budget cuts.
- Sounds great - the cost to put this into place and then to keep it updated - where will the money come from?
- Not keen on the idea of provincial system plan as these things tend to tie up staff, and nobody reads the final reports. If it has to be done, public should be involved. There is no place for a wildlife appeal board. This type of conflict should be resolved through legislation, not some sort of fuzzy arbitration process.
- Important on all issues in my estimation.
- In the past there has been very little tapping of the knowledge of area residents by Department of Natural Resources. Although the department does its best against great odds (e.g., understaffing and set limits) their jobs would be enhanced by more intellectual contact with residents.
- The evolution of hunting - based to other wildlife, to endangered species to indicator species to our ecosystem - based management strategy, I feel is progressive and correct. Unfortunately, ecosystem-based management is extremely complicated. Due

to a lack of resources and support, wildlife managers barely understand a few populations of plants and animals, and there is not nearly enough information to attempt to address and manage ecosystems in this province. Efforts should be redirected towards identifying gaps in plant and animal populations knowledge, before significant efforts are applied to ecosystem-based policies and concepts management.

- Land resources support us all, and the wildlife on them are great.
- Province should incorporate a provincial system plan for wildlife so as to work in harmony with the hunting population, animal activists and landowners with consultation from the entire public, not just selected interest groups, as they will work for their own ends. (Pocket more profits and work towards only the interests of their group. Simply I don't want to see one group take over hunting and the individual hunting enthusiast has to pay extra for a guide because he has to go through outfitters anytime he wants to hunt.)
- This is probably the worst survey I have ever participated in.
- I strongly object to the establishment of wildlife lands where, by the finding of some plant or bug, etc, by a biologist, environmental group etc., can result in a landowner, farmer, logger etc, being deprived of his ability to make a living. The extinction of species is a natural part of evolution. If an ecosystem-based system is adopted, there has to be a continuous existence of landowners, farmers, loggers, etc, on the review boards, planning committees etc., to ensure that the people that make a living on the land are not deprived of their livelihood.
- I like the management plans to be set forth. But I question if most or all proposed resource plans will be carried out. Show me, don't tell me. The government should review and correct all existing planning processes before moving forward to create new plans for prospective undeveloped lands. I would agree with a wildlife appeal board, so long as the input from the public had a voice in the matters.
- The public should be involved in management plans only to the degree of giving their opinions or desires. Technical aspects should be left to those qualified / trained for the purpose. Sharing of information and ideas is great, but to go to the point of requiring joint public / expert plans will not necessarily lead to the best plans, and there are already numerous examples where requiring public input before decisions can be made leads to nothing being done because the public does not provide adequate participation. Provide the opportunity for public input and the sharing of ideas, but don't make public participation mandatory.
- Sounds like the government would like to give every animal a social insurance number. Population numbers of most (not at-risk) species need not be surveyed for several years unless circumstances dictate. More time could be spent on (at-risk) or endangered species. I don't think information management systems are a high priority since with computers a few should be able to do a lot. An accounting system doesn't seem feasible for several species. Landowners and users see first-hand what is on their property and could provide information of different kinds. With landowner participation, land use related to wildlife practices can be implemented. Each ecosystem would probably have to be managed differently because of varying factors.
- Consultation of knowledgeable local naturalists would be a better source of information than a short-term biology research team.
- The idea of involving the public is good, however don't lose sight of the most important issue - basing decisions on sound biologic principles and studies. There should be no room for emotions and half-truths in decision making.
- Care must be taken that major wildlife management program direction is not dictated by special interest groups or groups that do not have a complete understanding of the issues. In these cases more weight would have to be given to professional wildlife biologists.
- Fees should not be charged for access to public lands, excluding parks. There are no true indicator species, who decides, all species have their own unique characteristics.
- All protection of lands should incorporate both ecological and features to ensure that all of these are protected in the least amount of hectares. This should be part of the 12% protection, not in addition to the 12%. Constant restrictions on access are causing significant economic problems in Manitoba. While the mining industry has worked closely to further the protected spaces program, constant piecemeal approach with very increasing demands for protection places this cooperation in jeopardy. Many items including 4.7 are based on subjective considerations leading to faulty or biased conclusions.

- Appointed boards reflect political attitudes more than knowledge of the subject.
- By reading the workbook it becomes obvious that "you" understand the need for preserving our wildlife habitat and the birds, animals and fish it contains. Please be assured we agree with this, however, the questions are vague, misleading and much too numerous to answer all of them. As a group of hunters we object strongly to having to pay for use of Crown lands. We also object to more Aboriginal rights. We want the few acres that are left to be available to future generations to hunt, fish and camp in without the numerous "user fees."
- It is hard to decide whether or at what degree the public should become involved in the management/ decision-making of wildlife resources. Regardless if it is a final decision made by the public or the Department of Natural Resources, this final decision must be supported by hard, sound and logical scientific data and research. No decision should be based on emotional ties or sentimental values.
- This section needs to be revised to increase the participation by local people in decision-making. Too often, special interest groups have far too much say over local wildlife issues. Local people must be given priority. Planning must also acknowledge the role of active species and/or habitat management as conservation tools.
- An incredible array of plans! Resources will have to be "valued" at a rate that covers all this work.
- Accounting requires adjustment to management - what then?
- Although money rules most government departments, I find it difficult to encourage attaching monetary values to our wildlife.
- More public input could only expand and improve the management and planning of resource issues, both in the plants and wildlife sectors.
- One major conflict is allowing hunting in provincial parks. I think that we need to have places that are safe to enjoy nature without being shot at. During the fall hunting season, Riding Mountain National Park is one of the few spots where you can engage in non-consumptive use of wildlife without having to wear hunter orange!
- Clear cut logging practices must be prohibited and replaced with selective harvest techniques. Stumpage rates must be increased to account for full market worth of the product.
- In my opinion, there should only be one ruler, one government.
- Partnership between Natural Resources and trappers would be an excellent partnership. Both are in the field. Trappers are in the woods and do the fur managing.
- This section is far too complicated! No resource use in Wildlife Management Areas! Indicator species should not be managed, if they are to indicate environmental change. Tampering (management) will mask change.
- Be careful. Ecosystem-based management is currently over-trendy but has its limitations.

General Group Workshop Comments on Policy Area 4

The following are comments made at the workshops in Dauphin and Winnipeg.

- Supportive of consultative approach, various levels of governments, groups, public, getting together.
- Partnership approach. Need to find ways to make it work.
- In the "planning process," who or what has the priority? Would it be the species if it is endangered or would it be the use, for example forest management and harvest?
- Related to accounting. Why are resource decisions made on the basis of how much revenue it will generate? There are non-monetary values.
- Many comments in regards to elk trapping.
- Workbook too complex, therefore we focused on the questionnaire; but the answers appear to be very one-sided; seems like you cannot disagree.
- Definition of wildlife inconsistent: forestry workbooks, fish workbooks.
- Ecosystem-based management is all-encompassing but the department organization does not match this.
- Policies do not match the definition.
- Focus tends to be on the traditional definition of wildlife.
- Consistent inventory if ecosystem management is a goal.

Policy Area 5: Urban Environment

SUGGESTED POLICY 5.1:

Urban wild animal and plant resources and habitats shall be protected, managed and, where practical, degraded and damaged habitats shall be rehabilitated and restored.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

5.1a Partner and work cooperatively with conservation groups, local government and other interested stakeholders to:

- *identify existing and potential urban wild animal and plant resources and habitats, including urban forests;*
- *protect habitat or mitigate the adverse effects of developments on urban wild animal and plant resources and habitats, including urban forests;*
- *develop guidelines for public works planning, construction, and maintenance to ensure the protection of wild animal and plant resources, including urban forests.*

5.1b Provide protective designations to lands critical to species at risk in urban areas, where feasible.

5.1c Facilitate the use and pursue establishment of a variety of methods such as donations, easements, leases, caveats or purchase to encourage private landowners to contribute lands to the protection of wild plants and animals.

5.1d Encourage, as required, developers to set aside significant habitat from development, through such mechanisms as density bonuses and cluster development, planned unit developments that set aside important wildlife habitat, performance zoning and fast-track development processes for projects that protect wildlife habitat.

5.1e Establish programs to promote and provide assistance for the preservation, enhancement and compatible development of habitat.

5.1f Provide recognition to those individuals or businesses who donate or protect their lands for wildlife and to volunteers who assist in wildlife programs.

5.1g Establish cooperative agreements and partnerships with other governments, non-government organizations, businesses, and landowners to rehabilitate and restore degraded habitat.

5.1h Establish restoration and rehabilitation guidelines appropriate to urban habitat.

5.1i Review and revise where appropriate provincial legislation such as The Endangered Species Act, The Planning Act, The City of Winnipeg Act, *and* The Municipal Act *to encourage changes that enhance and promote conservation of urban wildlife and habitat.*

5.1j Establish wild animal population targets for specific urban areas and establish programs to achieve them.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 5.1

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Policy 5.1	84%	13%	3%
Application 5.1aa	85%	13%	1%
Application 5.1ab	85%	13%	2%
Application 5.1ac	84%	14%	3%
Application 5.1b	85%	13%	3%
Application 5.1c	81%	15%	4%
Application 5.1d	84%	10%	5%
Application 5.1e	84%	12%	4%
Application 5.1f	88%	10%	2%
Application 5.1g	88%	11%	2%
Application 5.1h	81%	14%	4%
Application 5.1i*	0%	0%	0%
Application 5.1j	77%	16%	7%
* Application missed in questionnaire			

- I disagree with encouraging wild animals in an urban setting. They are inevitably killed by traffic or captured and removed. Birds and plants may survive and may be protected but not animals. Incredibly stressful situations for unfortunate animals may arise when they inadvertently wander into an urban setting resulting in harassment, injury or death.
- It is astonishing to see this as a policy relating to encouraging urban landowners to conserve habitat but there was no corresponding rural policy. This is all the more amazing given that all of the habitat "action" and issues are largely in the private land zone of Manitoba. In essence this document says "encourage" urban landowners but "regulate" rural landowners. This will never be accepted.
- This suggests providing recognition to people donating or protecting wildlife lands. This is an acceptable suggestion. However, instead of erecting signs, etc., I think this money would be better used in the acquisition of other lands. Consult with the landowner - if he insists on erecting a sign, put up a sign. If the landowner doesn't care, save the money and put it towards other land.
- Is only reference to landowners being "recognized"? Again US Conservation Reserve programs should set up and give landowners tax advantages for turning land "back" for wildlife.
- Bow hunting in suburb areas has proven very successful in controlling deer population in other problem areas.
- Guidelines should be law.
- Review and revise.
- The animals able to live in an urban environment will do so without programs. Probable population control measures necessary.
- Changes that enhance and promote conservation of urban wildlife and habitat include those that facilitate rehabilitation of core area residences and buildings (this should slow down outward expansion or sprawl into the country side).

SUGGESTED POLICY 5.2:

Urban and suburban development shall be assessed to ensure a balance amongst the protection, conservation, and development of wild plant and animal resources, including habitat and biological diversity.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

5.2a Ensure wild animal, plant and habitat factors, including urban forests, are part of the development impact assessments in urban planning and development processes.

5.2b Ensure wild animal, plant and habitat, including urban forest protective and mitigative measures, are integrated in development review processes.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 5.2

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Policy 5.2	82%	16%	2%
Application 5.2a	84%	15%	2%
Application 5.2b	85%	14%	2%

- You can do nothing about it - just another police force - wow!

SUGGESTED POLICY 5.3:

The responsibilities of municipal, provincial, and federal governments in wild animal and plant management, including habitat and biological diversity, within urban areas shall be identified.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

5.3a Clarify with municipal and federal governments and non-government organizations the roles of the various jurisdictions in:

a. the management of legislated species,

b. the management of species not covered in any legislation.

5.3b Negotiate processes for dealing with the management of wild animal species within urban areas, especially where species pose a risk to human health, safety and property.

5.3c Inform the public about the roles of the various levels of government in wildlife matters.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 5.3

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Policy 5.3	88%	12%	0%
Application 5.3aa	84%	15%	2%
Application 5.3ab	84%	14%	2%
Application 5.3b	88%	10%	2%
Application 5.3c	87%	13%	0%

- Make public aware through newspapers, flyers, posters, etc.

SUGGESTED POLICY 5.4:

Wildlife-related health, safety and property risks posed to the urban public shall be anticipated, prevented or mitigated.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

5.4a Partner and cooperatively develop effective and flexible management practices with municipal and federal jurisdictions to manage wildlife risks in urban areas.

5.4b Partner and cooperatively develop and implement information and education programs outlining safety standards and techniques which can be used by the public, e.g., information on how to identify poison ivy and control it.

5.4c Partner and cooperatively develop and implement contingency plans for rapid response to emergency or dangerous wild animal related events (e.g., bears in town / city).

5.4d Partner and cooperatively develop a public information system (e.g., 24-hour hotline, Web site) for dealing with problem urban wildlife inquiries, e.g., grackles, crows, racoons.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 5.4

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Policy 5.4	87%	12%	2%
Application 5.4a	84%	14%	1%
Application 5.4b	84%	15%	2%
Application 5.4c	86%	12%	1%
Application 5.4d	79%	18%	3%

- Already done. Tip Line?
- The Department of Natural Resources should encourage existing clubs / groups to capture wildlife and keep them alive (via a permit) rather than destroy the animals. If certain groups already exist, possessing the necessary permits, depredation should be promoted.
- Big brother looks after all.
- Through schools also.
- Grackles?

SUGGESTED POLICY 5.5:

Information and education programs respecting wildlife values, ecosystems and biological diversity shall be developed and implemented for the urban public.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

5.5a Develop and deliver, in partnership and in cooperation with other agencies and organizations, such as community round tables, information, interpretative and education programs which address among other things:

- *current wild plant and animal issues and management practices,*
- *impacts of public works and development projects on wildlife and habitat,*
- *traditional wildlife uses.*

5.5b Promote environmentally-friendly household practices to protect wild animals, plants and habitat.

5.5c Partner and encourage the participation of volunteer groups in public education and management of urban wild animal and plant resources and habitat, including urban forests.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 5.5

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Policy 5.5	85%	14%	0%
Application 5.5aa	86%	13%	1%
Application 5.5ab	87%	12%	1%
Application 5.5ac	82%	15%	4%
Application 5.5b	89%	11%	0%
Application 5.5c*	0%	0%	0%
* Application missed in questionnaire			

- Since Manitoba's population is concentrated in Winnipeg, urban folk need to be educated in regards to hunting. "Hunting has to be viewed in wildlife management" and not negatively. The Department of Natural Resources should initiate educational programs / tools which could be used in a classroon setting, promoting the benefits, importance and necessity of hunting.
- Some smaller zoos can be professionally managed but not nationally accredited, yet meet the animals' needs and provide for local or regional education!
- Through schools also.
- Partner and encourage.

SUGGESTED POLICY 5.6:

The creation, maintenance and ongoing development of professionally managed and accredited zoos, aquariums, arboretums, conservatories, interpretative centres and nature museums shall be accommodated.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

5.6a Establish partnerships and work cooperatively with organizations to establish appropriate facilities and implement interpretative and educational programs and commit to the establishment of programs to enhance the quality and viability of those facilities.

5.6b Continue to provide existing professionally managed, nationally accredited facilities with native species (when available) acquired through serendipity.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 5.6

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Policy 5.6	78%	18%	4%
Application 5.6a	82%	16%	2%
Application 5.6b	79%	20%	1%

- Should not be part of "Wildlife" Act. (Zoos) Zoo animals are property or pets just as we were told ranched elk didn't fall under wildlife during the round table meeting in Steinbach.
- You can't lump interpretive centers in with zoos and aquariums. Take them (interpretive centers) out and I would strongly disagree with this application, as I feel zoos and aquariums contribute nothing of value to the environment. Take out zoos and aquariums and I would agree with this application.
- Cost share communities and organizations.
- Don't know what this means.
- Serendipity - plain English would have made this easier.
- Serendipity - there has to be a better word / phrase choice!
- Accredited facilities - please define.
- Some smaller zoos can be professionally managed but not nationally accredited, yet meet the animals needs and provide for local or regional education!

General Questionnaire Comments on Policy Area 5

- Unfortunately governments tend to react favorably towards those groups who are the most affluent and who can buy favorable responses. Often the management and existence of wildlife habitat is determined, not by what is best for wild animal and plant resources but by those with the most political clout. Recent elk ranching decisions, the handing over of former Crown lands to natives, and the refusal of courts to deal equitably with wildlife violators bears this out.
- There should be some mention about the release of plant and animal life not native to local environments.
- An area requiring urgent attention.
- All these education programs are a great idea. I also think that in these programs, hunting and trapping should be stressed as a very positive management tool. With the growing urban setting, many people are too far removed from wildlife to understand the benefits of the recreational hunter and trapper. And that they are the true conservationist and not some tree hugger who doesn't put one dollar into the management of the resource.
- Move some of the deer and other wildlife species from the urban area out to a place like Manigotagan area where we have lots of habitat but no animals. (Or does this make too much sense).
- In the promotion of environmentally friendly household practices, more emphasis should be placed on rural communities for recycling and the cleaning up of garbage dumps and landfill sites. The better education of native communities of the adverse effects of littering and disposing of garbage, etc.
- Reasonable admission fees so the general public can enjoy these facilities.
- Very pleased to see increased interest in developing this area. Great potential to increase public knowledge of ecology and conservation, as well as support for wildlife management initiatives.
- I can't see the government using tax dollars to do all these nice ideas. No matter what government is in power, they will find a way to ignore, redefine, or get rid of anything that is not in the interest of the government and using tax dollars. They sooner give themselves a 10% raise and increase their pensions.
- Generally urban areas do not work compatibly / favourably with (animals) wildlife presence; plant species are more acceptable (non-mobile).
- To educate and work together to improve or restore as much as possible, habitat and wildlife so it may stay as original to its wild state as possible.
- Protection of habitat inside our urban setting produces more problem wildlife complaints then enjoyable opportunities for viewing. Skunks, raccoons, mice and rats love our urban interface. Winnipeg has a healthy deer population but they are enjoyed by the few in Charleswood who see them but not by the motorists who hit them. Songbirds, migratory birds and raptors aside, I would prefer not to encourage skunk and raccoon habitat any further.
- Wild animal, plant and habitat should not be covered in same questions in the urban environment. In many cases, habitat and plants need protection. However wildlife populations of some species are too high and create problems to health and property.
- I think the urban population are the people we have to work with, and teach about the wildlife resources in and throughout Manitoba. We would sooner not let the urban public learn about wildlife resources and management of these resources through the extreme organizations such as Green Peace, Humane Society etc.
- The urban areas of Manitoba must be part of any plan for sustainable development if the plan is to succeed.
- This is a low priority area. Cities have large populations, who, by and large will develop their own habitat. Legislation is not important and probably not enforceable. Good to reward people who do important work though.

- Urban wildlife issues are of particular importance. Although habitat and animal numbers may be very limited in an urban environment, they are one of the rare avenues of means in which city people can often interact and learn about wildlife and habitat.
- Restricted urban development to areas that would be less harming to the environment, and provide a good habitat for endangered / threatened wildlife.
- Harmony between urban development and existing wildlife in these areas so as not to deplete either.
- It is unclear to me what the Round Table deems as "practical" and "feasible." What are the guidelines / circumstances required to upgrade or provide designations to urban wildlife habitat? The reason I strongly agree with most of Policy 5 is because, like the Round Table mentioned, the majority of Manitobans live here. It is very important to educate urban city dwellers on the value and significance of wildlife, wildlife habitat, and plants. I know so many people who do not understand the life cycle or the fragility of the environment to change. To teach the public and resource users to respect nature would be a huge step forward in sustainable development, conservation, and preservation of the environment. Fort Whyte, Oak Hammock, and others, need more promotion. (Schools should attend more).
- Development anywhere should disturb as little of the environment as possible. Urban and suburban developments such as in Leaf Rapids, need not destroy all the forest but build within it. In places such as the edge of Winnipeg's perimeter highway, the planting of trees should be encouraged. Vacant areas could be developed into park-type settings of from a few to several acres. Walking trails could be developed in such areas as the bush near the Winnipeg zoo. Development should be fragmented in some areas to exclude the destruction of corridors and other high-use wildlife areas. School programs could be implemented to develop and maintain natural areas in urban settings with involvement of zoologists, etc. to better educate youth in wildlife management practices. Education is one of the keys to success of many undertakings, not only wildlife management, development, maintenance etc.
- Don't know much about urban development and how it affects the ecosystem and bio-diversity, and I am sure even those in urban areas are not aware either, so they have to be aware and know what they can do to help.
- Public education is the key; however, with all the demands on the time the ordinary family has available, this might be the most difficult aspect.
- Urban sprawl should be limited. Reduce speed limits in high deer areas, i.e., Highway 59 (Birds Hill) and Grant Blvd, Wilkes Ave. in Charleswood.
- Why would people living in remote areas contribute to a grackle hotline for people in cities?
- Preserving urban habitat is much more important than "development."
- Wildlife "oasis" and habitats for plant, birds and animals in urban areas is a good idea. With it comes some very obvious problems. 1) What do you do when you have a million geese in the City of Winnipeg limits? 2) How do you get rid of an overpopulation of deer? 3) How do you "manage" without harvesting?
- All worthy objectives. Dollars?
- We must use the education system to inform the public that we must control the populations of animals by the licensed hunter and trapper in order to prevent over-use of the habitat by the species, such as the snow goose destruction in Hudson Bay. The urban resident is very unaware of how quickly conditions can change if you stop hunting and trapping as a population control on animals.
- Disney is alive and well and living in urban Manitoba "City" born and bred have little or no concept of what wildlife resources management is. They are "Les Miserables" of society, but sure know how to pass all kinds of laws and other B.S at great public cost. Job creation - to who for what! Government intrusion into private responsibility!

- Publicly-owned golf courses could be used as wildlife land, i.e., leave certain areas uncut, grasses can provide nesting area, new growth between existing trees or, i.e., 20 inches of tall grass around the water holes will create excellent habitat. Government can impose a conservation easement on golf courses. Some ditches can be left uncut along city streets and notices posted explaining why.
- Urban areas can only benefit from a link to wildlife resources.
- Further zoo and aquarium development should be strongly opposed. Along with removal of animals from the wild. This should be deterred.
- Education, legislation to protect, and voluntary protection of urban wild spaces is important. As far as zoo's etc, are concerned. The province should not be allowing the creation of zoos or aquariums. Wildlife and fish that are caged do not help people understand their role In nature...they simply entertain. Areas such as Oak Hammock or Riding Mountain National Park Visitor Center use natural settings to convey their message. We don't need a beluga whale or polar bear stuck in a pen and looking bored.
- Doing programs through elementary and high schools would benefit. Children learn like sponges and often inform their families. Cheaper, more education as well.

Policy Area 6: Public Awareness and Education

SUGGESTED POLICY 6.1:

Enhanced public awareness of the social, economic, health and environmental value of wild plants and animals, ecosystems and biological diversity shall be promoted.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

6.1a Partner and work cooperatively with conservation groups, local government, Aboriginal community and other interested stakeholders to develop and deliver provincial information and interpretative programs which address among other things:

- *current wildlife issues and management practices;*
- *the economic, environmental, social and cultural values of wildlife;*
- *foster environmental awareness and responsible human action;*
- *wildlife identification and natural history.*

6.1b Promote environmentally-friendly household practices to protect wild plants, animals and habitat.

6.1c Encourage the participation of non-government organizations, such as community round tables and volunteer groups, in public education concerning wildlife resources and habitats.

6.1d Investigate the feasibility of a wildlife youth outreach program.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 6.1

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Policy 6.1	96%	4%	0%
Application 6.1aa	96%	4%	0%
Application 6.1ab	93%	7%	0%
Application 6.1ac	96%	4%	0%
Application 6.1ad	92%	8%	0%
Application 6.1b	93%	6%	0%
Application 6.1c	91%	8%	2%
Application 6.1d*	0%	0%	0%
*Application missed in the questionnaire			

- Dragonfly survey.
- Not Round Tables, they don't work up here, especially Island Lake.
- Youth outreach program [comment repeated 3 times].

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Dauphin and Thompson.

- Motherhood statements.
- Slanted to promotion and value, also need to explain negatives, e.g., beaver.
- Need balance; snow geese, white-tailed deer.
- Also must consider effects of activists movement, e.g., bear hunting, etc.
- Must provide full information re: value to economy, etc.
- Aboriginal partnerships don't happen. Deal directly with Ottawa, little discussion between locals.
- How do you solve the communication problem?
- How do you get Aboriginals to the table? How do you develop trust?
- Need round tables with equal representation.
- May need a different approach to communicate with Aboriginals.
- Need common ground, can't isolate sectors, must be a full round table.
- Public understanding, involvement and participation — promote and encourage this.
- Comes on [?], sewing, needlepoint, construction of whatever.
- Offer other workshop, e.g., we can all work into curriculum, students ?
- Other school groups.
- Partner and work cooperatively.
- Need to provide leadership and financing required to make it happen.
- Do it. Implement and cancel if it doesn't work.
- Need accountability.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Ashern, Virden and Winnipeg.

- Essential that wildlife education be made available to Aboriginals.
- People don't have all the facts to make an informed decision.
- The image of sportsmen should perhaps be promoted by the province (i.e., hunting and angling).
- Government should promote the good works hunters do.
- How do we change the image of hunters and hunting?
- Government should promote hunting.
- We should be worrying about losing the next generation of hunters.
- There are no young people out hunting.

SUGGESTED POLICY 6.2:

Public understanding, involvement and participation in wildlife and ecosystem management and biological diversity maintenance shall be promoted, encouraged and monitored.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

6.2a Establish partnerships and work cooperatively to:

a. develop and implement processes for public, industry, Aboriginal and agricultural communities and stakeholder review of and input into major wildlife management programs;

b. encourage and recognize a strong and active volunteer senior and youth component in wildlife management;

c. work with public education groups to educate the public about and encourage participation in the management of wildlife and their habitats;

d. develop wildlife information programs for local government;

e. provide support to wildlife related non-government organizations.

6.2b Provide information for the formal education system and for extension programs which explain biology, ecology and environmental economics and management. Information topics may include:

- *humane treatment of wild animals,*
- *hunting and trapping,*
- *problem wildlife management,*
- *wild animal damage and safety issues (e.g., red squirrel damage to homes),*
- *impacts of ecotourism, including the undue harassment of wild animals,*
- *harassment of wildlife users,*
- *land designation and access issues,*
- *firearm use,*
- *importance of habitat,*
- *effects of development, pollution, cumulative effects,*
- *environmental economics, - environmental impact assessments.*

6.2c Develop programs which assess and monitor use of wild animals and plants and designated wildlife lands by the public.

6.2d At least every five years, survey public attitudes towards wildlife issues and participation in wildlife related activities.

6.2e Provide sufficient resources to ensure adequate information is available.

6.2f Provide information in timely and popular formats such as maps, brochures, CD-ROMs, Internet.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 6.2

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Policy 6.2	93%	7%	1%
Application 6.2aa	89%	10%	1%
Application 6.2ab	94%	6%	0%
Application 6.2ac	96%	4%	0%
Application 6.2ad	92%	8%	1%
Application 6.2ae	89%	10%	2%
Application 6.2ba	95%	4%	1%
Application 6.2bb	92%	4%	3%
Application 6.2bc	95%	4%	1%
Application 6.2bd	94%	6%	1%
Application 6.2be	92%	7%	1%
Application 6.2bf	93%	3%	4%
Application 6.2bg	94%	5%	1%
Application 6.2bh	88%	8%	4%
Application 6.2bi	96%	4%	0%
Application 6.2bj	97%	4%	0%
Application 6.2bk	93%	5%	2%
Application 6.2bl	91%	7%	2%
Application 6.2c	93%	6%	1%
Application 6.2d	82%	13%	5%
Application 6.2e	93%	7%	0%
Application 6.2f	92%	6%	2%

- [6.2ad] And private sector.
- Must not include animal rights or preservationists, only groups with true conservation objectives.
- [6.2ae] Not financial.
- Educate today's youth that hunters, fishermen, trappers etc. are responsible for almost all successful conservation activities and anti-hunting radicals put very little efforts into anything but stopping hunting, trapping and eventually fishing.
- [6.2b] Strongly support! Education is the key to developing positive attitudes about wildlife and to teaching our youth that the "Disney" portrayal of wildlife is not the way of the real world.
- Some form of legislation must exist to protect hunters, etc. from harassment. Manitoba is now falling behind in this area compared with other provinces.
- This can be counter-productive, i.e., boy scouts planting Scots Pine on Spruce Woods Park Prairie. The scouts with their good intentions and misinformation looked and felt stupid when trees were pulled out and the sod had to be turned over.
- Should include wildlife depredation on farm lands.
- Promote hunter safety and Fire Arms Certificate courses.

- Ecotourism does not work.
- Should include basic principals of ecotourism for full understanding of how it should be conducted - not just that it has negative implications.
- See Ontario re: anti-harassment laws for hunters so radicals can't ruin experiences.
- At least every two years survey public attitudes towards wildlife issues and participation in wildlife - related activities.
- Two years.
- Once again, pure and logical scientific data should be the reasoning behind wildlife management (hunting etc.), and not public emotions and empathy. More and more, it is the younger generations which are apathetic to / or against hunting.
- Review in a timely manner, one area may need little attention, others such as bordering parks may require more often.
- Not round tables.
- Resource money needs to be adjusted to be most effective rather than according to a specific schedule.
- Add booklets.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Dauphin, Thompson and Winnipeg.

- Second point sums it up; 4 h point is important.
- Public understanding, involvement and participation, promote and encourage this.
- Comes on [?], sewing, needlepoint, construction of whatever.
- Offer other workshop, e.g., we can all work into curriculum, students ?
- Other school groups.
- Cattle Producers and effects of wildlife.
- Effects of wildlife on agriculture should be considered in #6 (e.g., predator control).
- Are other government departments receptive to implementing policies?
- Concern.
- Decline of wildlife, e.g., fox, bears, buffalo, chicken, COSEWIC lists.
- Caribou, wolverine - less habitat, over harvest (reasons).
- Education in schools so children realize problem and not repeated.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Ashern, Boissevain, Churchill, Norway House, Thompson, Russell, Wabowden and Winnipeg.

- Concerns of rural people should be dealt with by rural people.
- Locals should have latitude to manage local resources on a day-to-day basis.
- Hire locals for wildlife programs.
- Northern trappers are not heard.
- Northern issues are not heard relative to southern issues.
- Want to see more involvement by native communities, more native feedback.
- Management seems to be province-wide solutions to local problems - Winnipeg sets limits, seasons based on provincial input, ignoring local issues.
- Policies don't give enough teeth to northern residents.
- Must be more emphasis on education particularly regarding the important role of hunting.
- Department of Natural Resources should consider a survey of all wildlife users (hikers, farmers, trappers, etc.) for use and allocation of deer or elk or bear populations.
- Government should be making movies, videos, etc. on wildlife.
- There isn't enough wildlife education or information.
- Improve the education curriculum, by presenting a balance view on wildlife – show both sides.
- Must start education at an early age.
- Schools are the best place to work on changing people.
- Department of Education integrate environmental education programs into the curriculum.

SUGGESTED POLICY 6.3:

Education curriculum and education programs shall reflect a balanced approach to wildlife use and issues.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

6.3a Develop general sustainable development wildlife and fish information for listing as foundation materials for use by teachers to meet school curricula outcomes. This material should focus on the values of wildlife including:

- *traditional Aboriginal uses,*
- *economic values,*
- *subsistence and domestic consumption of wildlife,*
- *recreation, aesthetics*
- *animal welfare and*
- *nutritional value.*

6.3b Establish partnerships to promote and encourage sponsorships, grants, scholarships, bursaries, work experience and mentorship in wildlife education and training.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 6.3

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Policy 6.3	96%	4%	0%
Application 6.3aa	77%	14%	9%
Application 6.3ab	85%	10%	6%
Application 6.3ac	88%	9%	3%
Application 6.3ad	91%	9%	1%
Application 6.3ae	88%	11%	2%
Application 6.3af	68%	26%	6%
Application 6.3b	90%	9%	1%

- Strongly support! Education is the key to developing positive attitudes about wildlife and to teaching our youth that the "Disney" portrayal of wildlife is not the way of the real world.
- Balanced approach is the key issue.
- Animal welfare and humane treatment of wild animals must not be confused with animal rights and placing human values on animals.
- These should apply equally to all and not be specific to any racial group.
- Get more hunter and outdoor enthusiasts involved in education so these people are in positions to make proper decisions based on facts not Disney.
- I know moral support of students at Natural Resources Institute is important and really appreciated.
- More money for Natural Resources officers.
- This information should be very balanced, i.e., why a spring goose hunt is needed to save the tundra from over-grazing

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at workshops in Dauphin, Thompson and Winnipeg.

- Foundation material for schools.
- Current info - "Walt Disney" based.
- Anti-hunting sentiment comes from schools.
- Need education on the "facts."
- "Urbanization" attitudes, no concept of selective harvest, renewable resource.
- Policies and decisions made within the perimeter.
- School curriculum, no real info, dependent upon the teacher.
- Great deal of interest from the kids, but not necessarily directed.
- Some unbalanced programming.
- Produce an educated, knowledgeable workforce on the resource issues.
- Reduce spending.
- College and students – Keewatin Community College.
- Arms-length facility for all involved.
- Education curriculum and educational programs reflect a balanced approach to wildlife issues.
- Both sides of the issue to resource management to students, e.g., industry, Ducks Unlimited, FN, government (real life).
- Like to see traditional ecological knowledge incorporated into curriculum.
- Aid in understanding of our history, and provide options for proceeding into the future.
- Need to ensure that resources will be available to accomplish this.
- More scientific research in problem areas (i.e., COSEWIC list).
- Very important and needs funding, need to be part of teacher training.
- Need kids to understand the following.
- Concern-state of provincial parks.
- Recreation use too high.
- Wildlife cannot be sustained in areas of such disturbance.
- Very extensive damage.
- Parks for resource users!
- Need to be for preservation.
- Wildlife pushed out to community pastures because less human disturbance.
- Need for further research!
- Like to see our history of extirpation and wildlife decline in province since 1930. We can learn from our mistakes and ensure will not occur again.
- Could have reintroduction of extirpated species (e.g., bison in Spruce Woods).
- Misuse of funds.
- New policy - do not research / study wildlife populations which only make it into province in small numbers - and are ubiquitous elsewhere. (e.g., western spiderwort).
- Although interesting, not effective use of our resources.
- Policy.
- Recognize changes which have taken place over past 100 years and work with them.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Ashern, Norway House and Winnipeg.

- There isn't enough wildlife education or information.
- Improve the education curriculum, by presenting a balance view on wildlife – show both sides.
- Must start education at an early age.
- Schools are the best place to work on changing people.
- Department of Education integrate environmental education programs into the curriculum.

SUGGESTED POLICY 6.4:

Understanding and respect of differing economic, cultural and social views, values, traditions and aspirations respecting wildlife use shall be promoted.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

6.4a Ensure general information and extension programs:

a. include information on the rights of Status Indians regarding their values, traditions and use of wild animals, and

b. are designed to explain effects and implications of land and resource use on wildlife and habitat.

6.4b Establish partnerships and cooperatively establish programs to exchange information with First Nations, other cultural groups and new Canadians respecting their use of wild plants and animals and habitat.

6.4c Ensure its staff undertake the necessary training and gain an appreciation and understanding of the differing economic and social views, values, traditions and aspirations of the Aboriginal community in respect of the use, management and protection of wildlife resources.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 6.4

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Policy 6.4	84%	13%	3%
Application 6.4aa	74%	15%	11%
Application 6.4ab	90%	9%	1%
Application 6.4b	79%	14%	6%
Application 6.4c	75%	16%	10%

- Make sure course is designed by Aboriginals.
- Status Indians should be treated equally to other Canadians. No group, because of race or former perceived rights should be given preferential treatment or be exempt from the laws that govern all others. Our wildlife cannot continue to be hunted and harassed using methods not generally recognized as being reasonable or sustainable (e.g., Jack lighting, shooting from vehicles, shooting during calving seasons, netting fish for sale and abandoning nets full of fish, "subsistence" hunting and fishing for sale, etc.).
- I am a native Canadian, so was my dad and his dad. When will we be given equal status with "Aboriginals"?
- Not only the rights of Status Indians, but of Manitoba residents as well! Many of Manitoba residents make their living from wildlife resources, and depend on wild meat for food. All Manitobans have a right to hunt.
- Traditional use doesn't mean using automatic rifles. No person in Canada should have any special privilege to slaughter wildlife indiscriminately just because of their ethnicity!

- Once again, it should not only be the rights of Status Indians to hunt, etc. but the rights of any Manitoban!
- Make sure they don't abuse information. Ask Pine Falls people re: Aboriginal involvement in the Moose Management group.
- Should hire Aboriginal staff where possible.
- Traditional use by Aboriginal peoples is by far the minority of Aboriginal use of wildlife. Most under 40 years have no traditional use of wildlife at all. This is a political angle again. It is important to know past use, present use and understand the declining future use and importance wildlife holds for the younger generation. Traditional teachings are almost gone now and with the decline in revenue from trapping and fishing the future aspirations will lie elsewhere. Christianity far outweighs the traditional values and beliefs.
- Include grazers with natives, re: traditional knowledge and land use patterns.

Group Workshop Comments

The following comments were made at the workshops in Dauphin, Thompson and Winnipeg.

- Produce an educated, knowledgeable workforce on the resource issues.
- Reduce spending.
- College and students – Keewatin Community College.
- Arms-length facility for all involved.
- Education curriculum and educational programs reflect a balanced approach to wildlife issues.
- Both sides of the issue of resource management to students, e.g., industry, Ducks Unlimited, FN, government (real life).
- What are the limits to this?
- With respect to differing views.
- Need to specify that will ensure different views are considered but that sustainability is the bottom line (i.e., sustainability is not compromised; e.g., hunting).
- Understanding even though there are differences in our views; we are all working toward the same goal - sustainability.
- Very appropriate - reflection of existing situation.
- Need education on both sides.
- Need to come up with system that can restrict excessive take or apply current legislation where it exists.
- Need a feedback mechanism to track take.
- For food ok; need to register catch.
- Need to enforce illegal sales, etc.
- Need to explain economic benefits.
- E.g., guiding and outfitting.
- Need to educate younger generation to adapt it is starting to happen.
- Generational changes.
- Media a large influence - slant to one side.
- Eas. US hunting programs are popular - why can't we do that here and be accepted.
- Education and coop - all good.
- Must be all participants - round table must include active participation of all stakeholders to make real progress.
- Hunter imposts / licences - part set aside for education.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Ashern, Norway House, Thompson and Wabowden.

- General public doesn't realize that farmers care for wildlife.
- Aboriginal values of wildlife are important.
- Resources are being wasted, bears harvested by Treaty Indian for the claws only, rest of the animal is wasted.
- Try to understand resource users.

General Questionnaire
Comments on Policy Area 6

- Educating the youth of today about our resources will help preserve the future of our industry in future years to come. I would like to see more education given to the school kids and also more hands-on training in the field with natural resource development.
- Too often governments try to download or unload their responsibilities on to other groups, or to share the responsibility by creating other levels of bureaucracy to remove the financial or legal pressures on themselves. This has occurred in education and in health care with less than favourable results. Hopefully this will not occur in wildlife management.
- I think the Department of Natural Resources better start thinking about a volunteer corps to help with all this. There are volunteer fire departments, there is the RCMP Aux., hospital volunteers, and you need them too! I can't see the province hiring a whole pile of Natural Resource Officers and office staff.
- While the Aboriginals maintain their rights to "traditional" exploitation of wildlife, this use is not in fact traditional when it involves snowmobiles, ATV's, high-powered rifles and killing to sell the wildlife to non-aboriginal markets.
- To accomplish this policy the government needs to greatly enhance or create, fund and staff an "information and education" section of the Department of Natural Resources.
- I think education to the public is very important. Most have no idea what hunting and (fishing, trapping) are ways of a living. Same as farming, most children in cities do not know where milk comes from, so they have negative thoughts of farmers, trappers, fishermen and hunters. That these people help prevent disease in animals, from overpopulation (such as mange). They should see these animals freezing and starving to death. So I think some kind of education should be mandatory in schools. To educate our children in resources and farming. Most people have forgotten how our ancestors started and how they survived, to get us where we are today. Most people in cities forget there is life outside of the perimeter of their cities.
- Education is essential - people in Winnipeg need to understand the significance of what is happening to our aspen forest (Duck Mountain, etc.) and the wildlife therein, as well as in our so-called provincial parks that really offer very little protection.
- I feel public input is good, however sometimes a tough decision may have to be made contrary to public decision but best for plant or wildlife.
- An excellent policy area. It is my experience over the last 30 years, whether it was hunting, camping, involved in special interest groups, that people's interest lies directly in the outdoors itself. Knowledge and education about plants and animals and habitat is what keeps people's interest. How these are managed is of no importance. People want to see results, whether good or bad. They just want to see something done.
- There has to be more hands-on projects on hunting and trapping using the youth and elders from the communities and schools. We need some kind of budget so we could do workshops for the area. We have to deal with this bud worm disease in the Manigotagan area. There is a lot of area that has to be replanted and a lot of tree spacing too, I feel this should be done soon, instead of welfare, we should be working.
- Most teachers do not just put forth the information given them, but add their own biased, usually negative views on the consumptive use of wildlife and hunting in general. Any new group of people or natives must be made to understand, wholesale slaughter of wildlife for animal parts or meat sale will not be tolerated. Right now the penalties don't fit the crime. Stop focusing on the one-fish-over-limit type of infraction and go after the poachers who are really making an impact on wildlife.
- Use of resources must be an equally shared opportunity in today's society.
- Obviously an area of high priority in my view. Much of wildlife management in reality is people management. The more knowledgeable the public is, the easier the wildlife management.
- Very important that we should teach this in school curriculum!
- With governments reducing funding for education, these ideas will probably never happen.
- Seek ways to work on solving wildlife-related problems, and yet doing so without putting intense amount of pressure on our resources, being through education and proper management.
- Again, traditional Aboriginal means and use of wildlife capture is of utmost importance. If natives want to destroy wild game through use of spotlighting, all terrain vehicles, restrict this to reserved lands

only. There is no need for this to be harmful at all. Lets bring it to public attention because government is not.

- The public must be brought on side for this strategy to work. Not only to educate them and get them involved but most important so they can bring pressure on the government to provide funding and resources for this project.
- If information is provided to the public I don't see the need to give special consideration to the Aboriginals or new Canadians as we are all part of the public.
- We must not allow wildlife to be harassed. The Aboriginal people will have to learn something about conservation and should be allowed to hunt in season the same as everybody else. Not all year long.
- This is very important but nix the 5 year studies and concentrate on information dissemination and partnership promotion.
- Another very important area for me.
- I believe department needs to internalize understanding and respect for different views, values, aspirations. Further it needs to incorporate First Nations into programs directly to obtain credibility with First Nations people.
- As a retired teacher, I can't stress enough, the importance of working with and keeping in contact with the schools. Curriculums no longer include a good program on "nature study" so it's up to teachers with your assistance to implement.
- Education and public awareness is essential in continuing education to get awareness to the great issue of wildlife.
- In enhancing the public awareness of all the values of plants and wildlife, that every five years, surveys of public attitudes be monitored to ensure adequate information, so that education curriculum and education programs reflect these, so as to see how far from a balanced approach to wildlife use and issues the public is, so as to take corrective measures to bring it to a balanced approach.
- Aboriginal communities require as much training in the use, management and protection of wildlife resources as anyone else. What was important and practiced by the older generation, most of whom are now deceased, is largely forgotten, ignored and abused by the younger generations.
- As stated in Policy 5, I believe education and increased knowledge and involvement opportunities to the public is essential for proper wildlife management. This would be the best route for the wildlife strategy to pursue.
- The public should be involved in management plans only to the degree of giving their opinions or desires. Technical aspects should be left to those qualified/ trained for the purpose. Sharing of information and ideas is great, but to go to the point of requiring joint public / expert plans will not necessarily lead to the best plans, and there are already numerous examples where requiring public input before decisions can be made leads to nothing being done because the public does not provide adequate participation. Provide the opportunity for public input and the sharing of ideas, but don't make public participation mandatory.
- Require a two-way or more flow of information, data, research, techniques and methods regarding wildlife issues. This flow must come from and be between Aboriginal people, provincial government and industry. The question is how this can be done to maintain integrity, trust and local community and user group values. What I believe is required is an institution or facility which is at arms length from these 3 sectors. For e.g., Keewatin Community College (KCC) is situated relatively central in Manitoba and has the technology and skills to have this information and distribute it as required. Additionally KCC would benefit by providing examples of "real life" issues regarding natural resources management in curriculum and student projects. The situation is a win-win one. Additionally KCC is housed to provide workshops, seminars, etc., from student-led initiatives to local communities, schools, organizations in our region. However, this student-led initiative not only provides a flow of required information to local communities and user groups regarding western scientific knowledge in resource management, but provides the opportunity for local customs and traditions (traditional ecological knowledge) to be delivered back to the students. Again win-win with very little costs in money.
- Natives are some of the worst abusers of wildlife just because "we can." Like I said before, education is a key component to wildlife issues.
- Sometimes it's advantageous not to inform people who are not acquainted with life in the woods. Government sometimes listens to some small groups

who know little but scream loud. Don't forget, the people who live a lifetime in the woods, they know a lot. Aboriginal people should be educated and shown what they are destroying. I don't think they are aware of what harm they are doing to the environment and to themselves. I am a neighbour and friend to these people. I am not against them but the system by which we are controlled stinks. If I destroyed what they do, I would be put to jail for life. They don't even get a reprimand. Do we have human rights in Canada?

- Public should have input towards decision-making concerning wildlife
- It's time that the Aboriginal community started putting some money back into wildlife management. I know of many farmers and cattlemen in my area who feed deer and turkeys during hard winters, and pay for the feed out of their own funds.
- It is important that the students are aware of the programs that exist in the schools and the discussions they can participate in the community such as these round table discussions. Learn from elders and not only their same teachers. Scholarships might give more incentive to pursue a career in this area.
- What the native Aboriginals do with their status rights has very little to do with tradition, traditions which were quite effectively stomped out by the government of Canada. Traditions of native people should be taught, not what their rights allow them to do but what their responsibility to the environment allows them to do.
- I do not see why Aboriginals are the only people that get all of the special treatment. I feel all Manitobans have equal rights to all wildlife.
- Preaching to the chair is one thing, but the conservation and wildlife programs must address the youth of today.
- Education programs must be factually accurate, not emotionally charged.
- Some of the worst abuse of wildlife has been done by Aboriginals. They need training like the rest of us.
- At the present time, Department of Natural Resources cannot enforce and police the laws and regulations presently on the books. Our judicial system treats resource violations as a waste of time and resources and therefore there is little respect for the law. Having laws apply to everyone is the only system that will work in the long term sustaining our natural resources. If special rules are instituted for cultural or ethnic groups, abuse of our wildlife resource becomes blatant as is the present case with special rights for natives. If the general public become disillusioned with what they see concerning abuse of our wildlife resources, they lose faith in our present system and begin to treat wildlife the same way "special status" residents do. This is unacceptable and therefore all must abide by the same set of laws.
- Surveys are important but you will continue to get low return rates with this long and involved format. A series of 10-15 minute phone surveys (random) would give a better cross-section and provide more feedback from the public. No matter how it is undertaken, it must be shorter and more generalized with lots of space for comments.
- If the hunters are shifted out of a wildlife support role there will be no one promoting conservation in an effective and cost-positive manner. The hunters decline, complicated, over-regulated, cost, gun control, rural depopulation; confusion, decreases in the name of so-called management, steel shot, etc.
- Enhanced public understanding of wildlife and it's interaction with humans can only benefit all Manitobans.
- The public should be kept well informed about the issues and problems of the day. I believe the public at present has very little input and/or information of very serious concerns of the day. (e.g., Aboriginal hunting rights)
- Stricter monitoring of access into protected areas is essential.
- I think a key message should be: 1) Wildlife has inherent right to exist...it doesn't need to be "worth" anything. Its "economics" should be a very minor part of any education program. 2) Partners are needed...even partners that the current government might find unpalatable. These partners should include such ENGOs as CPAWS, Sierra Club, Earth First etc. 3) Any curriculum development must be balanced. If the Manitoba Government is sponsoring a trapping section, it must also include an anti-trapping message. Let the people (kids) have all the info!
- Status Indians should have no more rights to wildlife than any other Manitoban.
- Need to pay Natural Resource officers more money! They have to go to college for a long time. Their work is extremely important to our province!

Group Workshop Comments on Policy Area 6

The following are general comments on Policy Area 6 made at workshops in Ashern, Dauphin and Winnipeg.

- More public education.
- The general public doesn't realize that farmers look after wildlife.
- Start school education at young ages.
- How do you change a person's point of view of what is right, view on wolves.
- What is the public being taught and told? By whom? What point of view?
- A curriculum made up to be taught at school, not one sided, everyone's opinion, trappers, hunters, etc.
- Public needs to know if wildlife needs some human help - management issue, muskrats (disease).
- Page 29 - snow geese pup.
- Disassociation of urbanites.
- Debate on what was meant by statement.
- Recognition of misinterpretations of urbanites re: wildlife renewable resource, mangement practices.
- Non-partisan public awareness.
- Integrate [Policy]#7 and [Policy]#6.
- Education is the most important part of this process.
- Provide resources?
- Does this ensure the money will be available to back these programs?
- Are there resources available to promote, ensure, etc. in all of these areas? If not, what are the priorities, where are the resources to be put first?
- Must be some priorities set out in the policy!
- Education would be our first priority where resources must be applied.
- Public education should not come in this form.
- It is very intimidating and left to the side.
- We want to support all partnerships to work toward more effective ways of education and communication.
- Suggest education be focused on the youth, they bring it home! (e.g., purple loosestrife / recycling bins in).
- Schools was brought home.
- Legislation has to be backed up with education.
- When changes take place the public must understand why the changes are taking place, what impacts they will have, how they will benefit.
- Legislation alone will not create any changes.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following general comments on Policy Area 6 were recorded at workshops in Ashern, Churchill, Thompson, Virden, Wabowden and Winnipeg.

- Agree with the education policy.
- General public doesn't know enough to make informed decisions.
- Wardens, locals, drivers, etc. must be educated.
- Local education is very important.
- Tourists not usually the problem - locals are often a continual problem and must be educated.
- Should be face-to-face consultation with trappers.
- Should be communications with trappers and in their language.
- There is a need for education and awareness by Aboriginal people.
- Organizations, like Ducks Unlimited, need to be educated to get along better with farmers.
- There is a need for education.
- People have to have and understand information.
- Communications has to be a priority.
- Promote environmental education programs to taxpayers.

Policy Area 7: Human Health and Property Protection

SUGGESTED POLICY 7.1:

Wildlife-caused adverse effects to human health and property shall be anticipated and prevented.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

7.1a Clarify responsibilities of individuals, the Aboriginal community and municipal, provincial and federal governments with respect to issues of risk to human health and property associated with wildlife; recognizing that individuals and municipal governments have a primary obligation to take preventative actions to prevent risks to health and safety and property damage.

7.1b With stakeholders, the Aboriginal and agricultural communities and other governments, establish partnerships to develop and deliver management programs which will prevent or minimize risks from wild plants and animals (e.g., leafy spurge).

7.1c Ensure land use decisions and policies consider and address increased risk of wildlife damage, i.e., new park or cottage developments, agricultural expansion, subdivisions, roads.

7.1d Partner and develop education and information programs to inform the public of wild animal - related:

a. personal safety matters (e.g., bear attacks, rabies, Lyme disease);

b. agricultural damage prevention matters; and

c. residential damage prevention matters.

7.1e Cooperatively develop and implement contingency plans for rapid response to emergency or dangerous events (e.g., bears in town/city).

7.1f Develop a public information system (e.g., 24-hour hotline, Web site) for dealing with problem wildlife inquiries (e.g., grackles, crows and racoons).

7.1g Encourage the development and implementation of programs to protect wild animals and human health in areas of high mortality (e.g., road accidents, bears in cottage country).

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 7.1

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Policy 7.1	84%	11%	4%
Application 7.1a	90%	9%	2%
Application 7.1b	87%	11%	2%
Application 7.1c	86%	11%	3%
Application 7.1da	94%	6%	1%
Application 7.1db	91%	7%	2%
Application 7.1dc	90%	8%	3%
Application 7.1e	86%	10%	3%
Application 7.1f	84%	14%	2%
Application 7.1g	90%	9%	1%

- What is being done to promote (or protect) the predatory nature of wildlife? For example, a falcon coming into a bird feeder to capture a songbird. The general public would rather see a stop to hunting, would prefer we leave wildlife alone, etc., until this wildlife destroys or ventures onto their property. They can't have it both ways.
- Impossible.
- The building of new cottages and parks should not be encouraged in areas where "dangerous" or large wildlife may exist in plentiful numbers. Unfortunately, money speaks louder than most animals.
- One-minute news clips on rabies, lime disease prior to holiday season, also could be on leaving young deer, don't touch birds nests etc.
- Rapid response to dangerous events sows and cubs shot.
- Dangerous animals, domestic or wild should be shot if they impose a risk.
- Not Tip line.
- We have Natural Resources officers, why not include this with TIPS line?
- As long as this isn't a step toward unloading government responsibility.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Ashern, Russell and Virden.

- Concern over bear baiting near livestock.
- Property owners should be entitled to one elk – no questions asked.
- Bear baits bring in timber wolves.
- Concerns about the increase in rabid skunks.
- Elk baiting programs cause problems.
- Don't bait bears into agricultural areas then stop feeding.
- All farmers should be allocated licences.
- Open Game Hunting Area 22 for more hunting to reduce damage.
- Use paid lure crops to hold deer away from highways and stored food.
- Perhaps deer problem areas could be pin pointed and additional licences could be issued.
- There are identified major deer problem areas.
- Lots of deer damage to shrubs and landscaping.
- Deer are a problem, getting into crops and feed supplies.
- There is a problem with rabid skunks.
- There is a problem with beaver.

SUGGESTED POLICY 7.2:

Where reasonable preventative actions have been taken, fair compensation for wild animal damage shall be provided.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

7.2a With stakeholders, agricultural community and other governments, develop criteria, procedures and levels of compensation for severe property damage caused by wild animals.

7.2b In consultation with the agricultural community, continue to develop criteria, procedures and levels of compensation for agricultural damage caused by wild animals.

7.2c Include all commercial agricultural products (i.e., nursery stock, vegetable and fruit production, honey, grains, forage and livestock) in the wild animal compensation program.

7.2d Consult with the public, agricultural community, individuals and businesses to define the conditions when compensation for wild animal damage may be denied.

7.2e Encourage research and monitoring of actions and activities which help to prevent wild animal damage.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 7.2

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Policy 7.2	82%	13%	6%
Application 7.2a	84%	9%	6%
Application 7.2b	84%	10%	6%
Application 7.2c	77%	16%	6%
Application 7.2d	85%	12%	2%
Application 7.2e	92%	7%	1%

- A lot of damage occurs around Duck and Riding Mountains. These farmers want to be compensated but some won't allow hunting or charge trespass fees, e.g., $400 / week. So if they are profiting from these animals why should they gain on both ends? Farmers who refuse a certain number of hunters/section or whatever, should be denied compensation.
- Reasonable measures to prevent animal damage should include not beginning new ventures where there is obviously a conflict with local wildlife. The wildlife was there first and have first rights to survive, e.g., killing many bears due to cottage damage in areas where cottages should not have been zoned.
- Reasonable preventative actions should have access to hunters as the highest priority.
- Replace "agricultural communities" with farmers.
- This is an important area. I am concerned about paying compensation in situations where development activities etc., occur in areas where damage is inevitable.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comment was recorded at the workshop in Virden.

- Have to tighten up compensation for only those who follow the rules or take extra steps, but still have problems

SUGGESTED POLICY 7.3:

Human health and well-being shall be enhanced by maintaining natural biological diversity and the integrity of natural areas.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

7.3a Develop public information and education programs about the benefits of maintaining biological diversity. Programs will include information on:

- *water management and aquatic ecology,*
- *erosion control,*
- *biological research,*
- *biological controls,*
- *agricultural and forest genetics,*
- *medical research and drug development, and*
- *preservation of gene pools.*

7.3b Encourage and, where appropriate, provide incentives to landowners who maintain natural biological diversity e.g., for species at risk.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 7.3

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Policy 7.3	91%	8%	1%
Application 7.3aa	91%	8%	1%
Application 7.3ab	91%	9%	1%
Application 7.3ac	89%	11%	0%
Application 7.3ad	87%	13%	0%
Application 7.3ae	85%	14%	2%
Application 7.3af	83%	15%	3%
Application 7.3ag	87%	11%	1%
Application 7.3b	91%	9%	0%

- Not just landowners should be made aware of species at risk, but also the government's own employees – particularly agriculture department employees. In my own case agriculture department representatives last summer forced me to destroy a plant species on my property that is listed under the Manitoba Endangered Species Act, and which plant was confirmed as such by the Natural Resources Department. Our species at risk have no chance when their main threat is from the government's own employees! Why don't we first educate the government employees and then we can talk about the rest of us. This incident occurred in the municipality of Brokenhead, and the people involved were the weed inspector and the local agriculture representative, both of whom have no knowledge of plant species at risk or of the Manitoba Endangered Species Act.
- In a wildlife strategy, why should we be concerned about agricultural and forestry genetics and medical research and drug development - they are out of place. Hell, government won't spend enough money on wildlife, so why on this?
- [7.3a c] Biological research.
- [7.3a c] Agriculture.
- The only "gene pool" that I would suggest not be preserved, are the ones that wasted my tax dollar in preparing such a ridiculous questionnaire. Anyone that gives a...about the preservation of wildlife in Manitoba would be hard pressed to check off the right-hand columns.
- Incentive program including tax rebates is essential. We cannot depend on landowner generosity and understanding over the long term.

Groups Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshop in Winnipeg.

- Add to this list.
- Alien species - what are they and their effects?
- When species are introduced, the biodiversity declines.
- Public should be aware.
- Traditional ecological knowledge.
- Aboriginals have knowledge which can maintain diversity.
- Impacts of genetically modified plants and animals when introduced and cross-bred into natural environment.
- The possible success of cross-bred plants decreasing biodiversity of natural environments.
- COSEWIC species - so that they are not removed unintentionally.

SUGGESTED POLICY 7.4:

Safe and ethical a) hunting and trapping and b) nonconsumptive wildlife use practices, e.g., ecotourism and nature photography practices, shall be promoted.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

7.4a Continue to require first-time hunters to pass a hunter safety course.

7.4b Encourage and promote respect for landowner rights by the hunting community.

7.4c Continue to require mandatory training for first-time trappers.

7.4d Protect the investments of Crown land leaseholders by educating and informing hunters.

7.4e Partner with and encourage and work cooperatively with stakeholder organizations to establish and promote ethical and sound hunting and trapping practices.

7.4f Require hunters or trappers convicted of specified wild animal firearm or safety offenses to take a hunter safety course before getting a new licence.

7.4g Provide sufficient enforcement to ensure compliance with safety regulations.

7.4h Partner and work cooperatively with wildlife industry organizations and individuals to establish safe and ethical codes of practice for non-consumptive uses of wild animals and plants.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 7.4

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Policy 7.4	95%	3%	2%
Application 7.4a	96%	2%	2%
Application 7.4b	97%	3%	1%
Application 7.4c	87%	10%	2%
Application 7.4d	91%	5%	4%
Application 7.4e	93%	5%	2%
Application 7.4f	77%	11%	11%
Application 7.4g	93%	5%	2%
Application 7.4h	93%	5%	2%

- I have held hunting licenses for over 30 years, taken the hunter safety course, Canadian firearms safety course, I completely agree with policy 7.4. With firearms there are usually no second chances. There can be no excuses for any kind of accident. Gun safety should be practiced at all times. No exceptions. Respect for any land, no matter who owns it, should be practiced by all who use the outdoors for whatever activities. Hunters or trappers convicted of a firearm or safety-related offence, should lose this privilege for a time period of 2-10 years. Ignorance of the law is no excuse, because it is our duty as firearms users to know existing laws and bylaws, and besides as responsible adults, we are supposed to know the difference between right and wrong and therefore know before we do it. Commit an offence, and be man enough to accept the consequences.
- We certainly don't need more little picky senseless laws. Education and laws are fine but in order to go fishing or hunting now you almost have to spend 3 days reading all the rules. Straightforward, fewer, and more reasonable sensible laws.
- Utter nonsense! Need to re-train and/or test long-established hunters / trappers, not just first-time people. "Ethical trapping" is a nonsense phrase. No such thing. Trapping is outdated and cruel.
- The Big Lie! Non-consumptive wildlife use in Manitoba is a joke. It doesn't exist, but sounds nice on paper. Right now the biggest risk to our environment are wildlife viewers and nature photographers, so called non-consumptive users. Mining and forestry severely impacts the environment. They are made to reclaim the land they destroy. Who is going to reclaim all the destroyed lands around Churchill damaged by "non-consumptive" users riding in tundra buggies?
- Prefer to restrict hunting and trapping to Aboriginals and subsistence individuals in remote regions where there is less stress and impact on wildlife.
- Except where this knowledge has been passed down from parents to children.
- Make it diverse for the native community, maybe oral as well. Many native people are unsure of tests and it often deters them from completing this training.
- Lease less Crown land and don't sell anymore. Hunters are running out of large pieces of land to hunt on.
- Should read - Protect the investments of private landowners and Crown land leaseholders by educating and informing hunters.
- Land grab deluxe.
- Working cooperatively with the public, stakeholder organizations, the hunting enthusiasts must be ensured to establish and promote ethical and sound hunting and trapping as well as sound uses of plants and animals.
- Only if did not have course in past.
- When a violation of an offence meets the need at the fine. Does a first-time speeding ticket mean the drivers go to re-training courses? For an offence under hunting is dealt with a fine. No further prosecution is needed unless a "repeat violator." Then it should be addressed.
- It's doubtful that taking the course again would encourage better ethics or legal practices.
- A hunter safety course should be viewed as educational, not punitive. Violators of safety or firearms rules generally know the rules - making them retake a course already took is mostly punitive.
- Depending on severity.
- Most of these hunters / trappers would have already taken a hunter safety course and to me little would be accomplished by making them take and pass the hunter safety course again. Their actions are a result of their personality and the hunter safety course doesn't change or address this, instead some form of counseling makes more sense.
- This should be dealt with by stiff fines, not hunter safety. Safety offences should be retrained in addition to fines.
- If a person has a firearms offence, he should be prohibited from having another license.
- And pay more money to do so.
- I feel this is very important. Recent government cutbacks in training for and numbers of conservation officers and poor court follow-ups are added treats to wildlife.
- Make sure punishment is felt. Some guy driving a $40,000 suburban, a Weatherby rifle, wearing $2000 worth of hunting gear won't feel a $500 fine. Non-resident offender should be hammered big time for coming here and breaking our laws so we should make sure they won't want to come back.

- This should be expanded to ensure that in addition to compliance with safety regulations that Natural Resource Officers spend sufficient time to combat illegal use of wildlife. This requires some ingenuity which often is lacking. Too much effort toward licensed hunters which already have a 95% compliance rate.
- Yes! Presently it is virtually impossible for Conservation Officers to uphold hunting regulations with the staffing provided.
- Natural Resource Officers will have to do, pay them more money.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Churchill and Thompson.

- Hunters are good people – just as good as people that don't hunt.
- Improve humane trapping techniques.
- More research needed on humane traps.

General Questionnaire Comments on Policy Area 7

- Convicted hunters or trappers will not be discouraged by having to take a hunter safety course.
- Hunters and trappers who are convicted should have to complete a certain number of community service hours in the field they were convicted; 5-7 years of no hunting / trapping privileges and take a hunter safety course as well as 5 years probation after.
- The Department of Natural Resources should think of creating a public relations department. There's a lot of information here that will need to be put out to the public and likely some of it will not be well received by special interest groups - so it's important to have the majority of the public on side with you.
- Preservation of gene pools within province is not the huge problem it is made out to be. Shouldn't be used as an excuse to do nothing to stop the destruction of rare plants in threatened areas such as ditches, future construction and road sites, etc.
- More emphasis should be placed on programs that initiate preventative measures. Land owner incentives are important to get prevention measures in place. Prevention will help reduce compensation over the long-run.
- Agriculture has created a huge problem of flooding and less habitat for animals and vegetation by their extensive cutting of all trees and draining all their land waters into the bigger river systems. Each farm land should have trees planted to hold back some of the water and top soil, plus create a "home" for plant and animal life.
- People who farm / reside in areas close to wildlife take certain risks - those who farm in flood or drought prone areas also take risks. Compensation systems should be available on an area basis where those participating can share the risk through an insurance compensation provision. The use of public funds to protect private commercial interest needs to be thought through - perhaps there can be a contribution. Government must first protect, in this area, the environment, habitat and natural biodiversity. There are places that are not suited to agriculture...bad land use must be discouraged.
- There needs to be more pressure put on land owners who do nothing to protect wildlife or discourage wildlife from predating their haystacks or whatever. Then they turn around and want damages paid for it. Sometimes more than what it was worth to start with. Maybe they are the smart ones, they don't need it or can't get rid of it, let the deer or whatever damage it then get paid for it.
- We have a serious erosion problem in the Manigotagan area. I feel we should be compensated for the land we lost to erosion. We should also be compensated for the small amount of fur-bearing animals we have lost due to clear cutting by Pine Falls Paper Co. We need more hunting and trapping courses put on in the community. You also have to address the over-harvesting and poaching of all our moose in this area, as well, try to help us before it's to late. We need the Natural Resource Officers to patrol the highway more often.
- Taking a hunter safety course after is a waste of time. A violator already knows what's safe and legal before; he just got caught this time.

- Educate the public on how to deter wild animal property damage: Erect a fence along high-traffic deer accident stretches of highway, i.e., Birds Hill Park, to minimize vehicle autopac claims and unnecessary deer slaughter. In the long run, the cost of erecting a fence along the stretch of highway on 59 will offset the cost of autopac claims. An issue that should have been dealt with long before this. Enforce laws now already in place for those not adhering to laws, i.e., trespasses on private land.
- We as humans have the ability to make adjustments to our lifestyle and activities in order to manage / maintain a healthy environment that is diverse biologically. We must move into this favorable approach to our way of life. Not the traditional narrow approach of my business and perceived life requirement prioritizing all of the environment issues.
- More emphasis should be made on compensation to loss of property or damage caused by wildlife. Stiffer measures should be implied to offenders, pertaining to hunting and trapping as property owners are still faced with ongoing trespassing and property damage by irresponsible people. The latest huge winter private landowner problem is (trespassing snowmobiliers), we desperately need some kind of governing law, as they seem to go everywhere, harassing wildlife, cutting fences, tramping crops and no one seems to do anything about it. Please help!
- I feel that the land owner should carry insurance to cover losses due to wildlife and that the government should not be responsible for damage to crops. The animals were here first and we pushed them back and took away land that used to be a food source for them.
- Here I go again, Aboriginals need to be subject to the same training and safety programs and use of firearms. Status and off-reserve natives need training and restrictions. Also is it safe to discharge firearms during darkness hours? And along Crown land roads, etc.? Still say it is!?
- All Manitobans should be provided with a safe environment in which to live, work and play
- Farmers that do not allow hunting on their land should not be given compensation for agricultural damage caused by wild animals.
- Human conflict area is largely a municipal concern and should not tie up valuable provincial Natural Resource Officer staff time. Fair compensation to the agricultural community is very important.
- If the landowner is expected to support wildlife management activities on his property, society should be expected to repay him direct losses resulting from wildlife activities from crop destruction to fence repairs.
- I fail to understand why the department must pay several hundred thousand yearly in compensation for wildlife damage. We must remember that wildlife was there before the farmer and it's a risk they must take. From my experience, the claims are usually exaggerated. Beehives in bear country and grain fields in elk country are invitations to the animals.
- The humane treatment of wild animals is crucial, but the trapping of animals such as elk, for resale is wrong. I don't support this.
- The key word in Policy Area #7 is "education." Educating all wildlife users on preventative measures to eliminate wildlife - caused damage is essential and critical to the sustainability and harmony between people and the environment. Agricultural industries deserve compensation for wildlife - induced damages because they must earn a living from their products. Cottages on the other hand, willingly chose to own property in a wilderness environment. Therefore, I feel that does not entitle them to special benefits such as wildlife damage compensation. They know the risks going in, so they should accept the consequences.
- It would sure look good if someone was mauled by a bear or bit by a rabid skunk or something because someone couldn't get to a gun soon enough because they had to open two locks to get to a gun and ammo. If the Crown or province considers wildlife to be their property then they have to pay compensation for damage.
- When living close to mountains, farmers can expect some damage from wildlife. They should be fully compensated. However, certain measures (enclosures, Zon guns, etc.) can help in certain situation.
- Knowledge, safety, ethics and limitations are very important.

- Farms should only get compensation if they allow hunters to hunt their land.
- I have taken a number of hunter safety courses, and they were not in depth enough, most lasting 8-10 hours. The junior rifle program teaches hunter safety to juniors for approximately 40 hours through their program and this is better. The hunter safety courses for all should be a minimum 40 hours. Anything shorter does not do the course justice. Included should be a lot of material besides safety. Landowner relations, municipal land ownership maps, species identification, wildlife history then to now, conflict resolution, etc.
- Compensation for wildlife damage to agriculture should be based on fair market price, only if reasonable measures were taken, (i.e., hunters were allowed in field for geese, deer). Bee hives protected with electric fence.
- The subject animals are "wild" and are not capable of following departmental guidelines or regulations.
- We must realize that a large percentage of habitat is situated on private land. In order to maintain a good balance of habitat and compensation for damages, a very comprehensive plan needs to be developed. Paying cash for damaged crops doesn't seem to work. Perhaps paying landowners for animals harvested on their property would work better. Reimbursing for maintaining prime habitat should be considered. Tax incentives for land that provides good habitat could also be considered. The present system of wildlife compensation through crop insurance doesn't seem to be working very well. The basic concept of not paying the landowner until he suffers damages is not a good way of promoting more habitat and wildlife on private lands. Paying landowners incentives, i.e., X number of dollars per animal harvested, or tax incentives for habitat preservation seem to be a much more proactive and effective approach.
- It is extremely important that all users of plants and animals work together to provide continued use and prosperity of all animals and plants. When we talk of compensation for crop damages caused from wild animals, it should be mandatory that the farmers allowed hunting on the property by the public during regular hunting seasons in order that they may claim damages from the tax payers.
- It is not necessary for government to promote or develop ecotourism, and consumptive or non-consumptive wildlife use. If government red tape and restrictions are reduced, entrepreneurs will promote and develop these industries on their own.
- Leased Crown land was sold at fire sale prices, leases were not collected (fees), leases were posted, this is pure political B.S.
- Make the owner of a cottage sign a waiver so the Crown is not responsible for wildlife damage on Crown cottage lease. If the Crown sells agriculture - leased land to a farmer, make the farmer sign that he will not claim for wildlife damage or any other subsequent owner of the land can't claim damages. This is one way of keeping land vested in the Crown.
- Farmers need to have more tools in their hands to deal with damage caused by wildlife. (e.g., there has to be a better way of dealing with the elk depredation than calling in native hunters to slaughter them out of hay yards and crops). Stakeholders should have more say in policy and management (e.g., licences should be issued on a more local basis.).
- 1)Farmers must be responsible for protecting their crops. Adequate fencing of beehives, quick removal of hay to a hay storage area, removal of beaver dams etc., are all up to the farmer. If, following active and concerted efforts, damage does occur, than payouts are acceptable. 2) I'm kind of "iffy" about promoting hunting. I guess it's ok as long as it's done with tact and stresses the hunter's responsibility. 3) Development into areas where conflict is likely must not be allowed. We do not need more cottages in prime bear habitat!
- Much stricter sentences must be applied for infractions such as poaching. Aboriginals should also adhere to such regulations.

General Group Workshop Comments on Policy Area 7

The following are general comments on Policy Area 7 made at workshop in Ashern.

- To protect human life and property.
- 1) Better protection of agricultural property from increasing wildlife numbers.
- 2) Acknowledgement of damage done by wildlife.
- 3) Better research and planning implemented into winter feeding programs, so as to minimize damage to the local agricultural sectors.
- 4) An increased window of opportunities for local stakeholders to be able to harvest wildlife causing damage.
- 5) Licensing revenues going directly into wildlife programs.
- 6) Uncontrolled wildlife increases pose health risk to local agricultural herds.
- 7) Top priority still given to the sustainability of wildlife in area.
- 8) Improve and enhance protection of the investments of Crown land leaseholders.
- Echo Martin's views on hunters' accountability on occupied Crown lands. Closing agriculture is and will always be, wildlife's most important and influencing partner.
- Property protection (general comments).
- 1) Hunters and outfitters are baiting the bears in spring and fall to attract them into the area for hunting. Bears must then find food in the summer months. Too many bears near the cattle.
- 2) Human health - increase in skunk population and rabies. A control method is needed.
- 3) Some species should be removed from the protected list, i.e., ravens, congregate in corrals, sea gulls.
- 4) Coyote population, need a control check.
- Concerns of rural people should be addressed by fellow rural people and not by urban dwellers.

Policy Area 8: Humane Treatment of Wild Animals

SUGGESTED POLICY 8.1: ***Wild animals shall be hunted, trapped, killed, captured and held in a humane manner.***

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

8.1a Regularly review its regulations and procedures governing how wild animals are to be hunted, trapped, killed, captured and held to ensure animals are treated in a humane manner.

8.1b Provide for the independent review of standards and procedures governing the capture, handling, holding and trapping of wild animals.

8.1c Establish partnerships and continue to participate in the research and development of humane trapping techniques and equipment.

8.1d Maintain legislation to implement approved humane trapping techniques and equipment.

8.1e Maintain regulations, procedures, guidelines and standards governing the handling of wild animals in rehabilitation programs.

8.1f Educate hunters and trappers in the humane treatment of wild animals.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 8.1

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Policy 8.1	94%	4%	2%
Application 8.1a	91%	6%	3%
Application 8.1b	81%	11%	8%
Application 8.1c	93%	5%	3%
Application 8.1d	92%	6%	3%
Application 8.1e	91%	6%	3%
Application 8.1f	91%	6%	3%

- Most hunters go out of their way to be humane.
- Prefer to see less emphasis on trapping / hunting; but as long as these activities are permitted by society, Manitoba Natural Resource should do all possible to ensure as humane treatment as possible.
- Continue to work on humane trapping - totally abolish "leg hold" traps, in favour of power snares, conibear types.
- Wild animals should be trapped and killed quickly (not captured and held).
- The hunting community is capable of controlling itself.
- If sound practical regulations are in place, upgrade as necessary whether it be 2 years or 20.
- Unless this implies government unloading of responsibility.
- Not a stacked review committee.
- Wild animals should not be held.
- Hopefully this will not be done by some radical fringe group of the animal rights movement. They are prone to banning everything and anything that involves trapping, hunting, etc.
- Stupid.
- It is not hunters and trappers that need to be educated, it's the other imbeciles that are wandering around in the woods that need educating.
- Who is qualified?
- If sound practical regulations are in place, upgrade as necessary whether it be 2 years or 20.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Dauphin, Swan River and Winnipeg.

- Agree in Group Strong.
- Standards for holding of elk - need shade / trees.
- Regarding humane treatment of wild animals. The situation with black bears being destroyed by bee-keepers, landowners and poachers.
- Trapping: Need controls and regulations on what is a humane trap. For example, to kill 90% of animals in 3 minutes. Snares and Conibear - No leg traps, a relatively quick death such as drowning accomplishes it.
- Hunting - education to ensure hunting practices are safe by the use of proper and skillful techniques: an idea we had discussed was a practical skill test to ensure a potential hunter was qualified.
- Fishing - again the education for proper, efficient killing of the animal. We didn't support allowing a long death by suffocation.
- Bear baiting has been a controversial issue. Discussed that if bear traps around bee hives are going to be used, they must be checked every day and the animal treated humanely in accordance to pre-set regulations.
- Decided that it is in some ways more humane to hunt in this way because it allows the hunter to make a quick, clean, accurate shot, limiting the chance of wounding the animal.
- To stress that education of the public in these areas, with clear, concise regulations and consistent enforcement of these regulations.
- Agree that wild animals should be treated in a humane manner.
- 1. Strongly agree.
- Items in hunting guide about humane treatment of animals.
- Concern over elk trapping and stress on animals.
- Suggest code of behaviour and more info in hunting guide.
- Suggest same type of education for seasonal hunters.
- Important that new hunters / trappers learn respect and ethics.
- Agreement.
- Strong agreement pertaining to capture of (elk). What next - deer or bear?
- Neutral - change with the times.
- Agree - there has to be somebody to have these techniques and equipment approved.
- Agree.
- Strongly agree; one bad apple can spoil the outlook of other people looking into the way animals are treated.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comment was recorded at the workshop in Churchill.

- There must be accountability for animals to go to proper facilities (zoos) and there should be follow-up on treatment.

SUGGESTED POLICY 8.2:

The undue harassment, disturbance or interference of wild animals shall be prevented.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

8.2a Establish regulations which will define and control the harassment of wild animals, including, for example, the use of personal watercrafts, motorboats and snowmobiles.

8.2b Establish guidelines for ecotourism and interpretative programs that will ensure wild animal harassment is prevented or minimized.

8.2c Maintain information and interpretative programs to inform the public of the effects of wild animal harassment.

8.2d Discourage the taming or feeding of specified wild animals.

8.2e Prohibit, except under permit, the keeping of wild animals for pets.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 8.2

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Policy 8.2	96%	3%	2%
Application 8.2a*	0%	0%	0%
Application 8.2b	93%	5%	3%
Application 8.2c	92%	6%	1%
Application 8.2d	86%	11%	3%
Application 8.2e	84%	11%	4%
*Application missed from the questionnaire			

- Current practice of allowing native hunters and fishermen to night light; shoot from moving and motorized vehicles; netting fish from stocked lakes; disregard seasons, limits, designated routes; to fish during spawning periods and hunt during calving time should be disallowed. The sale of fish and wildlife taken by these means should also not be allowed.
- Leave ecotourism. It is so small and will never draw big numbers.
- Ensure no grandfather clause to existing operators to ensure new strict guidelines are equally applied to all users to properly facilitate protection of the area in question. Manpower must be in place to provide adequate enforcement otherwise this document is just a waste of trees.
- All wild animals.
- Elk.
- I disagree with "taming," however, I see no problem with "feeding" wild animals appropriate food.
- I suggest that this section be qualified as follows - "Discourage taming and feeding practices of specified species where these practices could result in detrimental consequences for the individual animals, the ecology of the species, human safety or property." I mention this because for years we have been putting out a little food each day at a site on our ranch to establish a site for the black bears to visit during their wanderings. We have many guests from all over the world coming to sit in our blind (a converted school bus) to watch the bears. We are very careful not to put out enough food for any bears to become dependent on this site, careful not to habituate the bears to humans - people are hidden in the blind and not allowed to speak - and we are careful not to allow the bears to make a direct connection between the food and humans. The proof that our system works is that we don't have any nuisance bears at our house which is only 1/4 mile from the bear blind. I would also like to mention, that we are the only non-consumptive outfitters in an area where there are several hunting outfitters who are putting out bear bait by the barrel full.
- Each year, I see Riding Mountain National Park becoming more like Banff. People feeding wildlife by hand or throwing pieces of food near bears, foxes, elk, moose is very symbolistic of how uneducated people (resident, non-resident) are in understanding wildlife. Perhaps educational points of interest or brochures can help those individuals understand the negative effects of feeding wildlife. Look at Banff!
- During cold winters with deep snow, animals such as deer and turkeys would lose much of their numbers to starvation if their feed were not supplemented.
- What are the elk caught under? Permits are given when some demand for animals is wanted. The government can change the Wildlife Act at any time. This is undue harassment. So how there be a policy for humane treatment of wild animals is a big joke.
- Elk shouldn't be kept behind fences but you don't seem to care about that. (Prohibit the keeping of wild animals for pets and livestock.)
- Under permit for education purposes only.
- Should there be any provision for keeping wild animals for pets?
- It is extremely difficult for an educated citizen to obtain a permit to handle/keep wildlife. It is understandable that we do not want the public at large to handle/keep wildlife, however certain individuals wanting to conduct personal research (by pure interest alone) should not be prevented from obtaining a permit. Wildlife never become "pets" unless you want to start using the term "domesticated" which the Department of Natural Resources is / never will do!
- Make fines big.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at workshops in Ashern, Dauphin, Swan River and Winnipeg.

- Agree.
- Regarding humane treatment of wild animals... the situation with black bears being destroyed by bee-keepers, landowners and poachers.
- 1) The hunting opportunities for black bear are under-utilized due to a restriction in non-resident licensed . Yet with 100% compensation for landowners, bears are still openly and illegally destroyed
- 2) The beaver population in the Riding Mountain Park is being mismanaged causing the loss of habitat for other animals, which is creating increased problems and flooding to landowners around the park.
- Enforcement of humane harvesting vs. the casual destroying of opportunistic "poachers" - regarding black bear.
- Better enforcement / or more penalties for those who harass wildlife.
- Agree.
- 8.2a suggested that the use of snowmobiles, personal watercraft and motorboats should be regulated. At first we thought that this was a bit extreme, but we agreed that there needs to be education programs and regulations to prevent people from damaging habitat and nesting areas, particularly of nesting waterfowl.
- Strongly agree.
- Agree. Not much info out in field to inform people of rules or regulations to do with this.
- Strongly agree; wild animals are to be in the wild, not in someone's house or yard.
- Agree except winter feeding programs for deer when in times of stress from winter severity.
- Strongly agree; only if animal is unable to survive on its own in the wild.
- Important to maintain the ecology with wild wildlife.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Ashern and Churchill.

- Must be a better way of scheduling tundra buggies to prevent harassment of bears.
- Shouldn't feed wildlife.

SUGGESTED POLICY 8.3:

Use of wild animals for research purposes shall be conducted in a humane manner.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

8.3a Continue to maintain regulations and standards for wild animal research which ensures the humane treatment of the animals.

8.3b Monitor wild animal research activities.

8.3c Continue to ensure research programs and activities involving the capture or handling of live wild animals are reviewed by an independent animal care committee.

8.3d Ensure provincial government research and management activities involving the capture and handling of wild animals comply with all regulations, standards and reviews required for private research activities.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 8.3

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Policy 8.3	93%	6%	2%
Application 8.3a	94%	5%	1%
Application 8.3b	95%	4%	1%
Application 8.3c	87%	9%	4%
Application 8.3d	92%	6%	2%

- Should not be necessary in most cases to use wild animals for research use.
- Why do they need to be used at all?
- Independent of whom?
- It is extremely difficult for an educated citizen to obtain a permit to handle / keep wildlife. It is understandable that we do not want the public at large to handle / keep wildlife, however certain individuals wanting to conduct personal research (by pure interest alone) should not be prevented from obtaining a permit.
- Before any license is granted to any captures we ought to know what the final home at a zoo is like. I'd prefer no captures of animals for zoos or wildlife parks at all. No to zoos!
- What kind of research on "wild" animals? Aren't there enough stray dogs, cats or other pets?

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at workshops in Ashern, Dauphin and Swan River.

- Agree with 8.3.
- Totally in agreement.
- Discussed more research into developing synthetic devices that could accomplish the same goal as live animal product testing.
- We did also acknowledge that without animal testing, we wouldn't have many products today that we use regularly.
- Agree with 8.3a.
- Strongly agree.
- Agree with 8.3 c and d.

General Questionnaire Comments on Policy Area 8

- I would like to see stricter rules and fines for people who harass wildlife by chasing with motorized vehicles and also for people who let their dogs chase wildlife.
- Quit encouraging the feeding of deer in winter.
- We should also ensure that relatives of cabinet ministers are not allowed to flaunt the rules, e.g., elk trapping, The minister, his relatives and friends should not be above the law.
- It would appear that the people preparing this questionnaire have never seen or read the Manitoba Wildlife Act.
- We need to be careful when we say humane treatment. This term means different things to different people. Maybe it should be left at ethical treatment. I also think if we do set up guidelines for the treatment of animals we better have a wide spectrum of knowledgeable people in that area making them up.
- Humane treatment of wild animals ...well, when you trap a wild elk and chop his horns off you have to wonder is this humane! I strongly disagree with the trapping of wild elk for farming purposes, especially when the mortality rate is very high from stress and entrapment.
- We need money (budget) to hold workshops on humane trapping, also we have to do a trap exchange program to stop the trappers from using the leg hold trap. The community of Manigotagan should have their own bear trap instead of everybody shooting the bear or other problem animals that come into the community.
- Mixed committee of hunters and non-hunters equally.
- Capture and sale of wild animals for government benefit should be disallowed and discontinued.
- Harvesting of wild animals has come a long way and always seems to be improving. Feeding wildlife in certain times such as harsh winters cannot be overlooked if it means saving a large number of animals. Government capture activities of animals for research is fine but not for capital gain unless the money is used for provincial wildlife damages or habitat improvement, etc.
- Not only is it necessary for wild animals to be harvested properly but it must be perceived by others that Manitoba provides humane treatment of wild animals.
- I strongly disagree with the government of Manitoba trapping live elk and selling same for elk ranching.
- This is largely public relations as dead is dead. We don't need a bunch of legislation regarding ecotourism or keeping a pet raccoon.
- I believe the Department has as much experience and professional ethics to formulate handling and holding research techniques as any agency. It needs to make public the accepted standards and procedures then implement the standards to the same degree it expects from other groups.
- Animals taken from the wild on a temporary (e.g., wildlife rehabilitation) or permanent basis (e.g., falconry) should be subject to periodic inspections to ensure the humane treatment of the animals. Technically, animals "taken" out of the wild, especially on a permanent basis, should still be treated as "public" animals, and not "private" animals...even though they are under private care. It is a privilege, not a right, to "hold" wild animals, and therefore, the entire process should be under close scrutiny.
- In the humane treatment of wild animals and plants we do not lean toward the plant and animal activists who see any form of hunting as inhumane. It should be a balanced medium or happy balance between the brutality of hunting and the cries of the activists.
- I don't think you should be capturing wild animals (i.e., elk) and then selling them. If you have too many elk then issue more hunting tags. Just look how the price of elk have dropped since the capture program was implemented.
- Ankle traps for canines are truly inhumane. Trapping animals for the purpose of slaughter / consumption should have devices that can carry out a quick kill. Trapping animals for the purpose of transporting problem animals to different locations must be constantly reviewed to ensure the animals suffer no physical injuries and reduced stress levels.
- I am in favour of educating hunters, trappers etc., only if the educator is capable, a hunter and trapper himself or herself. I am in favour of more Canadian hunters hunting in Canada, only if we have a sustaining population of game. Canadians first.

- Education!
- Killing wild animals can never be viewed as humane. It is an act of barbarism!
- I don't agree in the way our government has been handling the trapping of our elk. I think it is very inhumane. You don't capture a wild animal prior to giving birth!
- The capturing of elk for farming purposes is considered by all the people I discussed the topic with as reprehensible. Elk, or any other wild animal for that matter, are a beautiful creature in the wild. Fenced, they seem to lose their dignity and beauty. Wild animals (elk included) should not be captured for pets or profit.
- There is a very limited need for use of wild animals for research. Use specially bred animals.
- Harassment of animals should include tagging which places a high stress on both the wildlife being tagged as well as any other wildlife in the general area.
- Farming of wild animals, such as elk, is inappropriate. Disease, decimination by escaped animals is inevitable.
- A good idea but until "humane" is defined this is a very scary scenario. Until government begins to accept the view of the majority of users and begins to ignore the fringe "special interest" groups like PETA and the Winnipeg Humane Society, no reasonable compromise can be reached that will be workable to the majority of those affected.
- I am concerned that the definition of humane may make it impossible for trappers to effectively capture furbearers, e.g., leg hold traps to take fox, coyotes and wolves.
- Are there not already regulations in place, for the humane treatment of wild animals? If there is not, I agree there should be.
- There is no such thing as "humane" - killing quickly. Domestic animals should get the same treatment. The myth of a "humane trap" is just that - a myth. How do you hunt humanely?
- Control the amount of snowmobile groomed trails. Especially in wildlife areas, winter is a very tough period for wildlife.
- Define "humane." One person's definition may not be allowing any use or disturbance, and another may allow practices not approved of by most people. "Too loose." What is "undue" harassment, etc.
- This although important as it is, it has backfired with decreases in trapping, e.g., coyotes overrun with mange and predator problems. Any changes made should also look at long-term impacts.

General Group Workshop Comments on Policy Area 8

The following are general comments on Policy Area 8 made at workshops in Swan River and Winnipeg.

- We would like to mention the ambiguity of the policies and say that they covered most of the issues but offer no real solution. The main solutions were education.
- Of course details of these programs and regulations would have to be discussed both with governments and interest groups.
- Animal welfare and humane treatment must not be confused with animal rights.
- Existing policies/regulations are sufficient.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at the workshop in Wabowden.

- Who defines "humane" – the Europeans?
- Europeans will keep up the pressure even though agreements are signed.

Policy Area 9: Legislation and Administration

Wildlife Act Review:

A. Sustainable Development.
The Manitoba Round Table suggests that:

1. *The Wildlife Act embody and make operational, the principles and guidelines of sustainable development.*
2. *The Act state its purpose is to ensure the sustainability of wild animals and plants for present and future generations and for their intrinsic value within the ecosystem.*

Questionnaire Results and Comments

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Recommendation 1	88%	12%	1%
Recommendation 2	93%	6%	1%

- While sustainable development principles have merit, I would like to see the principle of biodiversity of wildlife and genetic integrity of species included in the Wildlife Act under sustainable development.
- These are matters of policy (good ones) rather than legislation.
- Sustainable Development - where do you define this term?
- Impossible.

B. Wildlife Branch and Mandate.
The Manitoba Round Table suggests that:

3. *The Act provide for the establishment of a Wildlife Branch with a mandate which clearly states its responsibility and accountability for implementing sustainable development by:*

   a. protecting and maintaining wild animals and plants, their habitat and the natural ecosystems upon which they depend as its primary role;

   b. managing wildlife and designated wildlife lands;

   c. protecting human health and safety, e.g., hunter safety;

   d. facilitating environmentally sound use and development of wildlife resources;

   e. meeting international and national commitments and obligations;

   f. providing education and interpretation programs;

   g. reporting on population and habitat status at least every five years.

Questionnaire Results and Comments

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Recommendation 3a	92%	7%	1%
Recommendation 3b	93%	8%	0%
Recommendation 3c	87%	11%	2%
Recommendation 3d	89%	9%	2%
Recommendation 3e	76%	16%	8%
Recommendation 3f	88%	11%	2%
Recommendation 3g	89%	8%	3%

- These are matters of policy (good ones) rather than legislation.
- Protecting health and safety hopefully means working on preventing harmful chemicals from damaging the environment, e.g., farm aerial spraying, etc. I personally have noted a decline and death of birds, especially following these actions. It stands to reason that it would also be dangerous to human health.
- Reporting on population and habitat status at least every two years.
- Yearly for big game.
- It is not Department of Natural Resources responsibility to fund education or agricultural diversification schemes. They don't receive enough funding to carry out even a very basic mandate.
- They do that now [9.3g].
- Should say "meeting or surpassing international and national commitments and obligations." (Some international and national commitments are based on figures and targets that are either arbitrary or designed to meet the needs of industry only, or both.)
- [B.3f] More cost effective to incorporate into school system. It would reach more people with less cost.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshop in Swan River.

- Habitat population / status evaluation - yearly basis if possible-5 years too late.
- We realize it states at least every 5 years - not done! E.g., jaw survey program no longer done.
- Consultation with field staff and the public very important, e.g., does field staff know about these meetings in advance.

C. Definition of Wildlife.
The Manitoba Round Table suggests that:

4. The Act define

a. "Wildlife" as any wild species of plant or animal occurring in the Province of Manitoba.

b. "Animal" as all wild multi-cellular organisms, including invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals but not including fish and plants.

c. "Plant" as all wild vascular and non-vascular plants including mosses, liverworts, lichens, fungi and algae.

Questionnaire Results and Comments

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Recommendation 4a	88%	9%	2%
Recommendation 4b	81%	11%	8%
Recommendation 4c	88%	11%	2%

- Even elk.
- Does "wild species" include exotic as well as native species? Should specify? E.g., does Manitoba Natural Resources control release of ring-necked pheasant?
- Should include any wild species (introduced and native).
- What does "occurring" mean?
- Including wild boars.
- Wild plants may be imported.
- Why not Fish? As dumb as it may seem - what about the insect world? Like stopping the fire ant from being introduced to this province. If the weather continues to change it will continue to head north and will eventually reach Canada.
- Why not fish?
- Since when is a fish not an animal? Should be included.
- Fish are not animals? Then what are they?
- Fish are animals.
- Marine mammals to be included too.
- When will "fish" be included in the Act? Biologically it makes no sense to leave this important group out of managed wildlife.
- Definition of a "plant." What about invasive species growing wild? I.e., European buckthorn, purple loosestrife. Eradication program policy and funding need to be addressed in this area. It is good to see that plants are now viewed as wildlife. A very positive step.

D. Ownership of Wildlife.
The Manitoba Round Table suggests that:

5. *The Act specify that all wild animals are owned by the Province and outline the circumstances when ownership passes to a private individual or business.*

Questionnaire Results and Comments

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Recommendation 5	80%	8%	13%

- No one has the right to claim ownership to wildlife except our creator. Wildlife were placed on this earth for all to enjoy equally! Trapping, sale of wild animals for personal gain should be disallowed.
- Anytime that the government of Manitoba is to consider selling the wild life or Crown land that belongs to all Manitobans, there should be input from the public before a decision is made.
- I believe wildlife is a public resource and should remain that way. No more privatization of elk.
- Never ownership, not elk ranchers.
- What about animals and plants on Indian reserves?
- Not so-special interest groups will argue that point.
- Big problem area with me.
- I very strongly disagree with wild animals being held in captivity or "owned" by private individual. The "farming" or "ranching" of wild animals is the beginning of the end of the natural system as we know it today. No-No-No!
- Instead of "Province" - "Citizens of Manitoba."
- The Department of Natural Resources completely avoids the mention of wildlife bred in captivity. Are their offspring considered "wild" or "domestic"? If I purchase a captive-bred animal, is it not my personal property? How can Department of Natural Resources justify taking elk from the wilds and then turn around and say that they are "domestic" without any breeding in captivity?
- What about elk?
- Who owns plants? This should clearly be stated one way or the other.
- Any animal that moves across provincial and/or international boundaries can't only belong to Manitoba.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Brandon and Swan River.

- Generally question transferring ownership of wildlife from Province to private landowners. Province should carry costs of maintaining wildlife populations and compensating costs of damage to landowners.
- Should have same hunting regulations south of area 23 as north of 23 to manage nuisance deer.
- People prefer cooperative programs such as Habitat Heritage program to manage lands.
- One concern that landowner may lose control of private land if it is managed to encourage conservation of native / endangered species, especially of plants.
- Need help to manage landscapes so that prairie species can be reestablished in southern Manitoba.
- If province owns all animals then responsible for their damage (some areas not under 100% rule). Fences.
- Hunt farms are a concern - how to legislate? How to hunt on them?

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comment were recorded at workshops in Ashern and Thompson.

- At what point should ownership be transferred?
- Question whether Crown has ownership of wildlife.
- Would like to see agricultural use in Wildlife Management Areas, e.g., controlled grazing.
- Question whether Crown has ownership of wildlife.

E. Provincial Wildlife Plan.

The Manitoba Round Table suggests that:

6. *The Act provide for the establishment of an ecosystem-based provincial system plan for wildlife which will:*

   a. *establish a general land capability inventory for wild animals, goals, priorities, land requirements, population targets and indicator species;*

   b. *require management plans for individually designated wildlife lands to address:*

      i. *protection of species at risk,*

      ii. *the needs, aspirations and concerns of local residents,*

      iii. *traditional uses and use patterns, recreational activities and aesthetics,*

      iv *the need in some cases for infrastructure and services, e.g., parking lots, washrooms, food services, viewing towers;*

   c. *require individual management plans for species at risk, economically important and harvested species, indicator species, and those posing a danger to health or property, and which:*

      i. *establishes population and range targets,*

      ii. *links population with requirements for provincial, federal, municipal and private lands,*

      iii. *establishes management guidelines and actions to be taken,*

      iv. *identifies monitoring, research and data requirements and actions to be taken,*

      v. *reflects local and regional concerns;*

   d *establish a land zoning process and classification system which describes the types and purposes of designated wildlife lands and permitted land and resource uses and developments within them;*

   e. *provide for public and interdepartmental participation in the preparation and monitoring of plans and the evaluation and public reporting of the effectiveness of the plans.*

7. *The Act establish a process, which includes interdepartmental consultations, and criteria for establishing designated wildlife lands and for removing designated wildlife lands or portions thereof.*

8. *The Act provide for the establishment of wildlife Crown land reserves as a mechanism to:*

   a. *achieve long-term designated wildlife land requirements,*

   b. *provide a process for evaluating potential Crown lands for wildlife purposes,*

   c. *provide a process for involving the public and resolving outstanding issues respecting resource use, constitutional rights and local and traditional uses;*

   d. *ensure all resource, transportation and sustainable economic assessments are completed.*

9. *The Act prohibit the sale of and make provisions for the control, including the restriction or banning, of development on designated Crown wildlife lands.*

Questionnaire Results and Comments

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Recommendation 6a	84%	13%	2%
Recommendation 6bi	89%	9%	2%
Recommendation 6bii	83%	15%	2%
Recommendation 6biii	82%	16%	3%
Recommendation 6biv	67%	25%	8%
Recommendation 6ci	86%	11%	3%
Recommendation 6cii	83%	12%	4%
Recommendation 6ciii	88%	10%	2%
Recommendation 6civ	86%	12%	2%
Recommendation 6cv	87%	12%	2%
Recommendation 6d	79%	17%	4%
Recommendation 6e	84%	15%	2%
Recommendation 7	80%	16%	5%
Recommendation 8a	90%	8%	2%
Recommendation 8b	90%	8%	2%
Recommendation 8c	88%	10%	2%
Recommendation 8d	82%	10%	8%
Recommendation 9	85%	12%	4%

- These are matters of policy (good ones) rather than legislation.
- Establishment of indicator species most important.
- "Management plans" needs definition.
- Local resident - what are local! I have just as big a stake in wildlife throughout the province as anyone.
- [6b iv] Department of Tourism or rural development, not Natural Resources.
- [6c] Good idea, bad approach.
- Needs to be a plan between farmers, Aboriginals, fishermen and government wherever appropriate.
- [6c I] These are established by nature based on habitat available.
- Removing designated lands from what?
- [8d] In some cases, all assessments cannot be done as the future is always uncertain. This should be re-phrased.
- [8d] Resource industries and transportation have claimed have been given first claim in the past, and now have reserved most of the province. It is fine now to enter a catch-up phase for wildlife. Assessments for wildlife should be completed, with appropriate reserves established, before resource / economic / transportation assessments commence.
- Recent land settlements for natives in Manitoba have included turning over designated Crown lands to various tribal groups for their exploitation and development, e.g., the Riding Mountain area, the Overflow River, Swan Lake area, the Porcupine Provincial Forest area, and others. This means lands formerly available for other residents is being given away, thus limiting the area which can be utilized by citizen taxpayers. Hopefully section 9.9 implies that such activity will be curtailed.

- [9] We are so far behind the 12% representation of land zones, that the government should be moving faster, including buying lands to establish wildlife reserves, since resource companies are requesting and being offered huge tracts of land for development.
- [9] Including Oak Hammock Marsh!
- Remove the minister's authority to overrule a decline by the Department's officials to sell Crown land or prohibit development. Do not allow the Department of Agriculture to have priority over land use. Referring to wildlife important lands.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshop in Swan River.

- Need for biological services groups to have more input, e.g., more in Forest Ecosystem Branch.
- [6e] Public input listened to and a mechanism to evaluate if it is used or not.
- [6e] Not simply political.
- [7] Public input required here also.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Ashern and Winnipeg.

- Build consultation into the Wildlife Act.
- Would like to see agricultural use in Wildlife Management Areas, e.g., controlled grazing.

F. Species Management.
The Manitoba Round Table suggests that:

10. The Act continue to provide for the designation, by regulation, of wild animal and plant species for management purposes such as endangered, threatened, big game, game birds.

11. The Act, by regulation, establish sustainable harvest levels, e.g., hunting limits for designated species.

12. The Act enhance powers to prohibit the harvest of species and control other activities when their sustainability is threatened and control activities during times and in locations critical to the sustainability of species.

Questionnaire Results and Comments

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Recommendation 10	94%	6%	0%
Recommendation 11	94%	6%	0%
Recommendation 12	95%	5%	0%

- Where wildlife in Manitoba may be threatened, captive-bred animals from another jurisdiction should be permitted in the case where an individual possesses a wild animal possession permit (to keep wildlife in captivity).
- [10] Non-game.
- Harvest should be minimal to allow all species to play a natural role in their ecosystems, e.g., leave sufficient deer and moose to maintain predators.
- [12] Hopefully this implies that the Act will be equally applied to all citizens.
- [12] What about treaties?

Group Workshop Comments

The following is the comment made at the workshop in Swan River.

- Bag limits set a year in advance? Not wise! Could have had a terrible winter, e.g., tick kill!

G. Licensing of Wildlife and Access to Wildlife.
The Manitoba Round Table suggests that:

13. *The Act continue to provide for the allocation of wild animals through licensing systems for:*

    a. resident, non-resident, domestic or subsistence hunting, trapping and harvesting;

    b. wildlife-related tourism, e.g., lodge and outfitting and other commercial purposes;

    c. game farming, wild animals in captivity and possession of wildlife parts, e.g., eagle feathers, owl carcasses.

14. *The Act provide for the issuance of a multi-year licence for*

    a. resident hunting,

    b. non-resident hunting,

    c. trapping and

    d. commercial uses of wildlife.

15. *The Act, by regulation, outline the conditions under which a licence or right may be reallocated or revoked.*

16. *The Act provide for the protection of commercial tenured right of access to wild animal resources by operators "in good standing."*

    a. "In good standing"" means an individual or corporation up-to-date in fee and royalty payments and who has not been convicted of an offense against the resource (e.g., hunting over limit, habitat destruction) in the past five years.

Questionnaire Results and Comments

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Recommendation 13a	91%	7%	2%
Recommendation 13b	87%	9%	4%
Recommendation 14a	66%	11%	23%
Recommendation 14b	50%	16%	33%
Recommendation 14c	67%	12%	21%
Recommendation 14d	48%	17%	35%
Recommendation 15	92%	6%	1%
Recommendation 16	73%	16%	12%
Recommendation 16a	78%	14%	9%

- Where wildlife in Manitoba may be threatened, captive-bred animals from another jurisdiction should be permitted in the case where an individual possesses a wild animal possession permit (to keep wildlife in captivity).
- Currently certain select groups (Natives) are exempted from most licensing requirements.
- Recommend low harvest levels. Animals are not "wasted" if not "used"; they are participating in their community's food web and ecosystem diversity and health.
- Subsistence - have some sort of control.
- When considering allocations, I advise gathering input from outfitters and lodgers.
- We do not want to see the whole licensing system go through the outfitters' hands as the other half should be in the hands of private outlets who are not in that business for profits.
- Licences should be issued for a one-year period only.
- What is a "multi-year" license?
- [14] Yearly.
- People may not be able to afford multi-year licenses (yearly is affordable).

- [14b] Not clear what this means.
- [14d] No!
- [15] These are matters of policy (good ones) rather than legislation.
- [16] What if availability is down? Does good standing allow for overuse or compensation to relocate these good-standing users? It's the wildlife in concern not the egos or goodness of users. Be careful with who / what is important.
- [16] These are matters of policy (good ones) rather than legislation.
- [16] Sale of outfit areas!
- Should read: "and who has not been convicted of an offence against the resource - in the past 10 years." Harsh penalties are needed to discourage the illegal practices which are destroying our wildlife populations.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshop in Swan River.

- Concern over definition and rights of "subsistence hunter" hunting.
- Multi-year licence, concern population status may change.
- The Act should make the outfitter and client responsible for specific situations, i.e., baiting.
- [16] As long as species $ sustainable.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comment was recorded at the workshop in Churchill.

- Should be multi-use licences for individuals and commercial users.

H. Land Use Permitting of Designated Wildlife Lands. The Manitoba Round Table suggests that:

17. *The Act designate the Wildlife Branch as the land use authority for designated wildlife Crown lands and that permission to use those lands be authorized by lease issued by the Wildlife Branch.*

18. *The Act establish a land use leasing process for the use of designated Crown wildlife lands for, among other things:*

    a. resource extraction, e.g., mining, petroleum production, forestry,

    b. wildlife related commercial purposes, research and education,

    c. private rights-of-way.

Questionnaire Results and Comments

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Recommendation 17	80%	14%	6%
Recommendation 18a	73%	14%	14%
Recommendation 18b	78%	16%	7%
Recommendation 18c	67%	20%	13%

- Is this policy or legislation?
- The Department of Crown Lands has a more agricultural awareness component than Natural Resources. Maintaining a balance between the two is probably the best solution to the land use dilemma.
- [17] Not agriculture.
- Resource extraction should be off limits (except to harvest over-mature timber).
- [18] Include agricultural use.
- [18a] Should not take place.
- [18a] Grazing.
- [18a] These activities must be prohibited on designated wildlife lands.
- [18b] Commercial purposes no.
- [18c] No.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at workshops in Neepawa and Swan River.

- [17] As long as Wildlife Branch consults with public again.
- Revisit Section 18 and any commercial utilization should be done under finite controls.
- Concern over type of development, e.g., mining / petroleum in designated wildlife lands.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Thompson and Wabowden.

- Should be provision for local resource boards to be involved in allocation.
- Document should be recognition of resource management boards.
- Must be local consultation to determine local solutions.
- Local communities need to be consulted prior to issuing permits and leases.
- First Nations have to be involved in decisions.

I. Wildlife Advisory Boards.
The Manitoba Round Table suggests that:

19. The Act provide for the establishment of wildlife advisory boards to provide advice respecting:

a. local long-term wildlife management problems,

b. commercial wildlife use.

Questionnaire Results and Comments

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Recommendation 19a	90%	7%	3%
Recommendation 19b	79%	10%	11%

- The Wildlife Advisory Boards should have equal numbers of representatives from all groups that are affected by wildlife from your hunting enthusiast and farmer up to provincial government representatives; even your local wildlife federation.
- [19b] Already dealt with by wildlife association and Natural Resources.

Group Workshop Comments

The following is the comment made at the workshop in Swan River.

- Board to advise government and given some "power."

J. Treatment of Wild Animals.
The Manitoba Round Table suggests that:

20. *The Act enhance regulations to govern how wild animals may be hunted, trapped, killed, captured and held to ensure animals are treated in a humane manner.*

21. *The Act enhance regulations to govern the handling of wild animals in rehabilitation programs and for research to ensure their humane treatment.*

22. *The Act continue to provide for the independent review of standards and procedures governing the capture, handling, holding and trapping of wild animals.*

Questionnaire Results and Comments

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Recommendation 20	91%	7%	1%
Recommendation 21	89%	9%	2%
Recommendation 22	88%	7%	5%

- What is "humane"?
- [22] Shouldn't be any.
- [22] The Act does not now do so.

Group Workshop Comments

The following comments were made at the workshop in Swan River.

- Concern over cutting elk horns - inhumane?
- Now [?] More[?] agriculture wildlife trapping rules clarified - fur bearers trappers got with rules.
- Funding and depots for injured animals.
- Better standards for elk trapping - define! Train.

K. Wild Animal Damage.
The Manitoba Round Table suggests that:

23. *The Act state that each person has a primary obligation to take preventative actions to prevent risks to health, safety and property damage posed by wild animals.*

24. *The Act enhance, by regulation, criteria, procedures and levels of compensation:*

    a. for severe property damage caused by wild animals,

    b. for all commercial agricultural damage caused by wild animals, including damage to nursery stock, vegetable and fruit production, honey, grains, forage and livestock.

Questionnaire Results and Comments

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Recommendation 23	89%	9%	3%
Recommendation 24a	85%	9%	6%
Recommendation 24b	83%	11%	7%

- Suggests a need for habitat review rather than compensation. There is a problem deeper than economics - deal with it!
- [23] Only if this is related to compensation for that person's property or being.
- [24] Blatant waste of dollars.

Group Workshop Comments

The following comments were made at the workshop in Swan River.

- Define preventative action? No management ____[?]
- No management rights on own property?
- Expand compensation, e.g., fences and elk.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comment was recorded at the workshop in Ashern.

- Worry about property and agricultural damage from wildlife.

L. Trade and Transfer of Wildlife.
The Manitoba Round Table suggests that:

25. *The Act continue to make provision to control the import, export, trade and relocation of wild plants and animals and parts thereof to:*

    a. reduce the risk of damage to species, their habitat or their genetic integrity;

    b. prevent or control the spread of disease or parasites;

    c. protect human health and safety;

    d. prevent the unauthorized use, harvesting, removal or moving of endangered plant species.

Questionnaire Results and Comments

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Recommendation 25a	95%	4%	2%
Recommendation 25b	95%	4%	1%
Recommendation 25c	93%	6%	2%
Recommendation 25d	95%	4%	2%

- Moving of endangered plant species - let government handle this.
- [25d] Should include animals as well as plants (endangered).

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at the workshop in Virden.

- There are problems with wild rice introductions – muskrat populations are falling.
- There is no consultation regarding the planting of wild rice.

M. Fees and Royalties.
The Manitoba Round Table suggests that:

26. *The Act, by regulation, prescribe competitive fees and royalties, based on full cost accounting, for the use of and access to wildlife resources and lands, including but not limited to:*

    a. hunting and trapping licences,

    b. commercial tenured right of access to wild animals for tourism-related non-resident and resident hunting,

    c. leases for various land use activities within designated Crown wildlife lands, including but not limited to forestry operations, mining, petroleum production, private recreational trail development and agricultural activities.

Questionnaire Results and Comments

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Recommendation 26a	79%	10%	12%
Recommendation 26b	77%	11%	12%
Recommendation 26c	82%	8%	10%

- Only if non-consumptive users are equally treated.
- Full cost accounting: You're asking us to sign a blank cheque, no thank you.
- If full cost accounting is applied to licence permit holders, they should have full rights to area as resource, i.e., grazing lease land should be totally maintained and controlled by lessee, no trespassing, no restrictions.
- Hunters and trappers save money for the province by controlling populations.
- [26c] Should not be allowed period. Designated trails and wild hay harvest only.
- Mining, logging, petroleum production, hydro development, etc., on Crown wildlife lands must be prohibited.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following are comments recorded at workshops in Ashern and Churchill.

- Should be fees for berry picking, seneca root picking, etc.
- Should be a levy or head tax on tourists to support ongoing management.
- User fees are very important and tourists don't mind paying.
- There should be a price set on wildlife: funds should be returned for local wildlife management.
- We should be proud to export our wildlife to zoos etc., but the price should be very high - $1,000,000 for a whale etc.
- Ecotourism fees are needed, and should be put back into enforcement and management.

N. Donations and Financing.
The Manitoba Round Table suggests that:

27. *The Act provide for the acceptance of land donations and their protection as designated wildlife lands and as Crown land, consistent with the terms of the donation.*

28. *The Act provide for the creation of a fund to be used for special wildlife management purposes.*

    a. *The fund could be linked to revenues from such sources as user fees, access fees, surtaxes, resource extraction fees and donations.*

Questionnaire Results and Comments

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Recommendation 27	93%	7%	1%
Recommendation 28	88%	10%	2%
Recommendation 28a	81%	15%	5%

- Great idea; a great source of funds for tight land acquisition budgets.
- If there was sufficient trust in our government (that keeps changing) over the long term, then the lands donated to habitat trust at Manitoba Wildlife Federation could become provincial lands and administered as per the wishes of the donator. Is this desirable?
- They must have an exemption for the provisions of removal from wildlife land. These donated lands must stay as wildlife lands.
- [28a] Donations only - yes!

Group Workshop Comments

The following comments were made at the workshop in Swan River.

- [27] Better "management" around "wildlife areas."
- [27] Attracts wildlife - agriculture land e.g., impound elk in lieu of government payment.

O. Public and User Safety.
The Manitoba Round Table suggests that:

29. The Act continue to require:

a. first-time hunters to pass a hunter safety course,

b. mandatory training for first time trappers.

Questionnaire Results and Comments

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Recommendation 29a	97%	3%	1%
Recommendation 29b	87%	10%	3%

- Must be coupled to federal firearms course.
- Not in its current rinky-dink form.
- Perhaps a test rather than a course.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comment was recorded at the workshop in Norway House.

- There needs to be an education program for native hunters.

P. Appeals and Compensation.
The Manitoba Round Table suggests that:

30. *The Act establish an independent wildlife appeal board and dispute resolution process for decisions made under the authority of the Act, including but not limited to decisions related to:*

    a. the allocation or reallocation of wildlife resources to competing commercial operators,

    b. the revocation of a wildlife licence or land use lease.

31. *The Act, by regulation, define compensation criteria, conditions and procedures for determining when compensation may be given where access rights to wild animal resources is allocated to some other commercial wild animal use.*

Questionnaire Results and Comments

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Recommendation 30a	78%	15%	8%
Recommendation 30b	83%	13%	4%
Recommendation 31	70%	22%	8%

- Appeals and Compensation: The Act should also establish an independent wildlife appeal board and dispute resolution process including landowner, farmer, etc., for decisions relating to the establishment of ecosystems and designated wildlife lands.
- Is this board necessary? Why cannot the minister decide, with advice from staff? I would check agree boxes if the board is necessary.
- [30] That's what a minister gets paid to do.
- [30a] They should not have preference, that's discriminatory.
- [30a] No! Use different systems!
- [30b] Do not implement!
- [31] Shouldn't happen.
- Commercial operators should not be made to think that their operations are going to continue forever. No compensation necessary.
- [31] No compensation!

Group Workshop Comments

The following comments were made at the workshop in Swan River.

- [30] Appeal Board could decide on compensation for damage to private property.
- [30] Concerns over how to handle if some users have little or no regulations.
- [30] Increase funding – staff.
- Revenue generated from wildlife activities, e.g., licences, go to wildlife not general revenues.
- [30] Concern - are senior management trained in appropriate field? E.g., Forest Branch staff - some not trained as foresters.
- Local Department of Natural Resources no input into sale of bear / white-tailed deer allocations.

Q. Cooperative Wildlife Management.
The Manitoba Round Table suggests that:

32. *The Act continue to enable the entry into cooperative arrangements for wildlife management between governments, organizations, etc., e.g., co-management agreements.*

Questionnaire Results and Comments

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Recommendation 32	85%	13%	2%

- This area needs to be enhanced. Legislation should recognize that the primary resource users, native people, should receive greater emphasis from the Department of Natural Resources with a separate section of the Department solely responsible for this initiative. 1. Protect the Manitoba floral emblem, the prairie crocus. 2. Protect the woodland caribou from forestry operations. 3. Protect shorebird habitat along the Hudson Bay coast.
- The Act to enable cooperative arrangements for wildlife management between government organization like the Wildlife Branch, the public and your hunting enthusiasts. The government may have cooperative arrangements for wildlife management between government organizations but that the input for the policies come from across the whole spectrum of the public. E.g., from your hunting enthusiast to provincial government, not only the few groups that are in the cooperative arrangement for wildlife management.
- Use "cooperative" rather than, or in addition to, "co-management."
- Doesn't work.

Group Workshop Comments

The following comment was made at the workshop in Winnipeg.

- Undue interference and harassment of legitimate and authorized users of wildlife - establish and maintain penalties and fines.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Ashern and Wabowden.

- Aboriginals should be brought into discussions on wildlife management (co-management).
- Need more local co-management boards with representation by local residents.

R. Enforcement and Penalties.
The Manitoba Round Table suggests that:

33. *The Act continue to require hunters or trappers convicted of wildlife, firearm or safety offenses to take and pass a hunter safety course before getting a new licence, over and above any other legal penalties.*

34. *The Act continue to provide for the enforcement of the various regulations and leases required to manage wild plants and animals and establish penalties of sufficient magnitude to encourage compliance, ensure sustainability of wildlife resources and reflect its full value.*

35. *The Act establish and maintain penalties and / or fines for:*

    a. *non-compliance with conditions of a Wildlife Branch issued lease or licence. The penalty could also include the possible rescinding of the lease or licence,*

    b. *harassment of wild animals,*

    c. *illegal hunting, trapping, capture and harvest of wildlife,*

    d. *habitat destruction on designated Crown wildlife lands,*

    e. *undue interference and harassment of legitimate and authorized users of wildlife,*

    f. *unsafe hunting, trapping or wild animal capture activities,*

    g. *the unauthorized release, transfer and relocation of wildlife species.*

Questionnaire Results and Comments

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Recommendation 33	78%	10%	11%
Recommendation 34	93%	6%	1%
Recommendation 35a	93%	6%	1%
Recommendation 35b	96%	3%	1%
Recommendation 35c	98%	2%	0%
Recommendation 35d	96%	3%	1%
Recommendation 35e	91%	8%	1%
Recommendation 35f	96%	4%	1%
Recommendation 35g	96%	4%	1%

- For all equally, i.e., Aboriginals continuously trespassing and hunting on privately-owned lands and nothing being done when TIPS is called.
- Penalties should be high enough to be a deterrent. A $100 fine or less is no deterrent when there is little risk of being caught.
- Does not now do so. A hunter safety course should be viewed as educational, not punitive. Violators of safety or firearms rules generally know the rules - making them retake a course they already took is mostly punitive.
- Retaking a course would be redundant - counseling would be better.
- Stiffer penalties.
- Enforcement could contribute to elimination of specific species.
- Anti-harassment laws to protect hunters.
- [35e] Very important and should be acted upon sooner than later.
- Should pay careful attention to this matter. We are entering an era where this will be needed. Animal rights activists are making great strides in this country.
- Define harassment.
- If harassment means running down or chasing a wildlife species by motorized vehicle until the species is exhausted; that, I call harassment. Other, no.
- If unsafe also means inhumane like the animal activists are pushing, then I don't whole heartedly agree. Hunting and trapping will involve some brutality.
- [35g] Only if to a foreign ecosystem.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Churchill and Boissevain.

- Even when someone is caught, the judges don't understand the issues and give out "slap on the wrist" penalties.
- Enforcement and penalties are probably 35 years behind.
- Forest companies are not followed (monitored), there is often complete devastation. The companies don't live up to the agreements.
- Policing of wildlife harassment is currently poor.

S. Amalgamation of Other Acts.
The Manitoba Round Table suggests that:

36. *The Act amalgamate and integrate the provisions of the current*

    a. The Endangered Species Act and

    b. The Ecological Reserves Act.

Questionnaire Results and Comments

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Recommendation 36a	78%	17%	5%
Recommendation 36b	75%	19%	6%

- These two acts, I believe, take precedence over the Wildlife Act. Would they not remain higher profile and stronger if each of the former remain distinct pieces of legislation? What is gained by amalgamation?
- No, stand alone.

T. Effect on the Crown.
The Manitoba Round Table suggests that:

37. *The Act be binding on the Crown, in that departments and Crown agencies will be required to comply with specified regulations, standards, permitting procedures and other restrictions.*

Questionnaire Results and Comments

	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Recommendation 37	90%	7%	3%

- Crown lands should be handled by federal government.
- This effect is especially important with ensuring all Crown land is handled in a consistent way, e.g., agricultural Crown land. Agriculture has major impacts (i.e., cumulative) on wildlife.

General Questionnaire Comments on Policy Area 9

- Costs affiliated to the non-commercial use of wildlife resources should be kept within the reach of the common citizen. The act should continue to encourage safe practices and ethical use of all of our natural resources. Additional funding required to enhance our resources should be obtained through higher financial penalties for those individuals or commercial enterprises who would be convicted of violations to the Act. Access to excess wildlife resources should go to those who contributed the most to their successive members.
- Wildlife/fish decisions should be taken away from provincial politicians so things like what has happened in Ontario per spring bear hunting do not happen in Manitoba. An advisory board made up of all stakeholders should be given the power to make these kinds.
- Let federal government handle Indian Reserves and Crown land plants and animals. Don't make the fees so high that local people can't afford to hunt. Don't forbid hunting on plant habitat preserves like Tolstoi tall; burn Prairie; hunting in the fall and winter won't damage it. They won't shoot the plants! Protect wetlands. Many areas need to be set aside, especially bogs. The rare plants are every bit as valuable in bogs as ducks are in marshes. Protect them, don't drain them. Don't use preservation of gene pools as an excuse to do nothing to protect rare plants. Cooperate in recovery protocols, set up mechanism to have plants moved from endangered areas quickly and efficiently if need be. Involve the public more in your plans to manage endangered species. Many people have info to contribute not just research scientists. Let the general public know about endangered species. Enlist their help. Trust them! Share your data.
- That land should be set aside for the use of wildlife, be it private, Crown, municipality. Compensation for wildlife damage.
- Multi-years licensing could only be considered in the light of yearly fluctuations in wildlife populations, in turn a function of weather and climate.
- I would be very concerned about the government taking away someone's livelihood over minor infractions or because of an employee's mistake.
- I feel we have to have Aboriginal representatives on all wildlife management boards.
- Re: fees - currently hunters and wildlife organizations provide money for wildlife programs in many ways. It is essential that other user groups (i.e., ecotourism wildlife viewing) should be required to fund wildlife programs / sustainability through their user fees. That way funding is not dependent on only the hunters, trappers and wildlife conservation groups. Let all who use, pay their share!
- If the province accepts ownership of any type of wild animal it should also assume any damages they may cause. Crown land should all be managed in a way that they meet the full requirement for a healthy natural wild state. Courses for either hunting or trapping should involve both a classroom and field test where both are used for a final exam. There's no better education then actually firing a rifle and setting a conibear trap.
- There are too many Acts or pieces of legislation provincial and federal now. All policy and regulation must be brought under a limited number of Acts that fit together to control the "whole " issue of sustainable development. Re: fees and royalties - Care must be taken in the fee structure so that we don't get into a situation where only the rich can hunt, fish, trap or use the government recreation facilities in the province.
- There should be a very specific process which leads to the designation of Crown land as wildlife lands. This should take into account all the potential land use conflicts but once the designation is made there should be no appeal process and no mechanism for reversing the designation. The Act itself should be specific enough that wildlife advisory boards are unnecessary. Human health and safety does not need to be incorporated into the Wildlife Act, which should concentrate on the long-term viability of wildlife, primarily though the protection of habitat.
- Wildlife belongs to Crown and live wildlife should not be sold for commercial purposes or sold to citizens for commercial ventures. Similarly for non-native species. I feel very strongly about this. The risk of disease and escape are too high, i.e., wild boar classic example. As a taxpayer, why am I responsible for mess and clean up? Also tie enforcement efforts in knots when one can't differentiate between wild and commercial wildlife. Fees / Royalties - tell me what you include in calculation of costs before we start talking full cost recovery. I think you need to think carefully about what you want to include in the Act and what you need authority to regulate.

- The Wildlife Act needs to have a few clauses changed, but overall it is a good program.
- Crown lands in agricultural areas should be left under the current Crown lands authority.
- I'd like to see legislation on the regeneration of degraded or damaged habitat in urban and rural areas. Instead of designating new wildlife habitat for resource user purposes, reclaim abandoned lands and create a new wildlife habitat. This is utilizing sustainable development to its best.
- Neutral because unsure if have authority to amend Wildlife Act.
- When I am sold a hunting license, the game I take under that license should become my property, as long as taken legally and within quota. I should be able to sell the feathers, bones, skins, claws, etc., other than the meat which must be consumed.
- How can outfitters sell their allocation and tags for large profits when they paid nothing for them in the start. It should be like the registered trappers who can only sell their traplines for improvements. Seemed to be a conflict here. The government has little say in the matter of allocation sales and tags which would create a monopoly by one outfitter. Presently only the clientele is charged. Outfitters should be made responsible and charged when an offence is committed, i.e., baiting of white-tailed deer. Client is charged, not the outfitter.
- I don't understand many of these questions so I am not going to respond. Not familiar with it.
- I am quite sure that wildlife and its habitats do not mean as much to some office dude as it does to me. How can he place proper value for a thing that he has little or no first-hand knowledge of.
- A strong penalty for any Aboriginal that has broken the law, should be in place.
- The Act does not address the requirements of special needs participants (i.e., mobility restricted). Presently there is a program in Natural Resources to provide permits to mobility-restricted hunters to ride vehicles / ATV's in non-designated areas. This does not meet the requirements of many who cannot transfer or dismount a vehicle without assistance. The Act must incorporate a program / regulations to facilitate all people who wish to take full advantage of the outdoor experience.
- We must be careful with trying to meet national and international standards. Do we shut down hunting seasons because the European union thinks wild geese are beautiful and should not be shot? Let us make rules and regulations that suit our needs, with sensitivity to what other countries might wish us to do. Common sense must prevail. An area of concern is that the outfitters will do anything in their power to expand their operation. They are in business, but often in conflict with individuals that hunt and fish on their own. Riding Mountain Park (elk hunting, on the boundary) is an area of concern. Outfitters likely believe that they should own all wildlife in Manitoba for their own use. I can see conflict intensifying in the coming years.
- All people are included in species management when population has to be protected.
- It is difficult to envision wild animals as being "cured" by the province. Does this mean they cannot work in Quebec and does this mean that Manitoba will be liable for action of its cured animals? Management plans must be based on good science. Issuing of land use leases should continue to be responsibility of Crown lands or Energy and Mines. A third source of such surface leases will be confusing and inefficient. Issuing departments should include consideration of wildlife considerations. Full cost accounting is too subjective to be used in determining fees. In addition there is no incentive for efficiency and subjective fees can be a form of punitive taxation. Fees should cover cost of issuing plus a 10% management-type fee.
- Fish are animals and sure need protection. Think of cod, salmon, pickerel and gold eye and what happened to them.
- Even though the proposed Act defines wildlife as plants and animals, it is clear that on private land, plants are privately owned wildlife, animals are Crown owned. This is a distinction that must be recognized in this Act.
- With respect to hunting license fees, hunting should be encouraged by whatever means possible. If, fees increase, significantly, this increase combined with federal gun laws, will effectively "kill" the sport. At that point, Natural Resource staff will be faced with increases in numbers of complaints from the public regarding starving / diseased animals and the "natural" population control mechanisms.
- Nice to have all these objectives. It all goes out the window if we continue to do things like allocate huge areas for logging without establishing environmental costs, getting a fair return and ensuring habitat protection.

- We are very concerned at the amount of commercial use of wildlife and are against any increase in licenses or expansion of territories allowed to the non-resident and commercial operator. We are very concerned about the harassment of individuals by the animal rights activists. These are paid lobbyists and are not representative of the residents of the Province of Manitoba.
- Humane is very subjective. "Advisory boards" — who qualifies? "Multiple use" equals multiple abuse.
- The Wildlife Act is too complicated for the average hunter or resource user already. Is it really necessary to have hundreds of changing and conflicting rules and regulations each year? Simplify in some areas where possible. Also simplification could enhance and encourage more tourism and non-resident hunters.
- I think wildlife management areas should have no commercial resource harvesting, wildlife lands should be set up for the goal of a population(s) irregardless of the actual or potential economic potential. I also don't like the use of multi-year licenses. Also, wildlife found on federal lands are not the property of the Manitoba government.

General Group Workshop Comments on Policy Area 9

- Page 72, not sure that private landowners will favour stronger legislation to control land use, habitat.
- Protection and management of species risk.
- Doubt that landowners would support it without compensation.
- Such legislation would also impact use of community pastures and other uses of Crown land and leased Crown land.
- Generally oppose any legislation which results in increased costs to landowners through loss of income, increased costs, or loss of control over use of land.
- Control over private land should be the absolute right of the landowner and landowners should be able to veto government initiatives to protect endangered species.
- Crown Land Administration: Overgrazing - restrict the number of cattle - pasturing September15.
- Crown Lease is privilege.
- Fenced hunting - prohibited.
- Access fees charged by farmers. Ok - gives value to wildlife, encourages farmers to retain habitat, encourages land owners to consider habitat in farm planning.
- Balance in round table and advisory bodies - individuals who make a living on land including loggers, farmers, trappers.
- Landscape changing - animals (deer) adapting to farming practices. Can we go back?
- Let it be noted that 100% compensation is not actual figure.
- Legislation on sales of frogs / snakes and other wild creatures should be separate from shed antlers gathered for commercial reasons.
- Include that archery hunters pass a hunter safety course.
- Quadruple field staff in Natural Resources Department.
- Respect we felt comfortable to disagree.
- Lots very good. Lively discussion / not all in agreement.
- No major problems with A-C if adhered to.
- Bottom line: put more money into these issues. More staff.
- The act doesn't make mention anything about accessibility for the handicapped.
- Discharging firearms from a vehicle - Ontario already has legislation.
- Access on docks, winches.
- Exotic species more care taken, i.e., wild boar, St. John's Wort.
- More money at grassroots level.
- Revenue from hunting goes directly to conservation, not general revenue.
- Statistics - should make more reference to how they gather specific information.
- Contentious issue: six provincial parks should be total refuges for wildlife.

Staff Workshop Notes on Policy Area 9

The following general comments on Policy Area 9 were recorded at workshops in Ashern and Winnipeg.

- Should cut back on the amount of regulation.
- Shooting restrictions from roads too complicated.
- Accessibility for handicapped people should be in the Wildlife Act.

Questionnaire Additional Comments

- Legislation is required to hold responsible those individuals or corporations who may deliberately or inadvertently release engineered biological material into the ecosystem thereby causing environmental damage. Many insect species are native to Manitoba and are an integral and important part of our ecosystem. Their importance should be reflected in building a strategy for wildlife.
- I would like to see a black powder rifle season for moose, elk be established. Also I would like to see more advertising to help outfitters get established so they can provide a better service. This also would promote the tourism of Manitoba.
- I am aware that most often when anyone questions or comments on Aboriginal hunting or fishing practices that it is dismissed as being prejudiced. My comments are in no way racially motivated nor should they be construed as such. I simply feel that all citizens should be governed by the same laws and regulations; no individual or group should be given special rights and privileges; all should be equal under the law. Treaties established generations ago were structured for the era in which they were established and should have little relevance to the present. Surely the tens of billions of dollars provided to Indian Affairs for distribution to native peoples in recent years should have brought about extinguishment of most or all treaty obligations. Aboriginal people, to me, should be considered equal Canadian citizens, and subject to all the same laws, rights and privileges as other citizens.
- The Manitoba government should not be bound or held up in its decisions to change laws governing how it manages its wildlife, i.e., if we have too many white geese then laws should be changed to reduce them in a short time frame. Midwestern states have spring season on white geese. Why should Manitoba have to comply with North American migratory bird treaty when other states are not? A spring season in Game Hunting Area 1 for 99 season will have little or no impact, whereas white geese numbers will not be reduced because of low number of hunters. Manitoba government should not be involved in trapping elk and selling them for a single industry gain. If Manitoba. has too many elk in areas then more licenses should be sold or elk moved into new areas to increase populations. Many man hours and tax dollars were spent in Game Hunting Area 5 to study the movement and habit for elk and to this date no elk have been moved into that area.
- The Endangered Species Act should be made known to Agriculture Department employees. These employees have caused destruction of a species at risk on my own private land.
- We have to start restoring our wildlife areas because that's where most of our ancestors started from. That some of our land be recovered back to nature but we still have to hunt and trap to control wildlife such as diseases and overpopulation because some people are still trying to make a living off the land. These people still have rights too. If people were more educated on hunting and trapping we might have less Green Peace people and more logical thinkers. To me people have to be more informed on what is going on outside the city. We all can't live in cities — who would feed and clothe us? Thanks for letting me be involved and for my opinion.
- As a registered guide for 15 years, I've witnessed the misuse of Aboriginal hunting in the Duck Mountain area and Riding Mountain. These continued practices go on with the provincial and federal game wardens being notified. If this Act could stop these illegal hunting practices and increase the efficient and financially viable promotion of non-resident hunting through licensed outfitters with quota areas. This would enhance the regulations of white-tailed deer and bear in Manitoba.
- All of these ideas are a step in the right direction. Wildlife decisions need to be made in a more timely manner, e.g., late deer season to harvest more deer when needed. Open white geese hunting all day right away and a spring season when needed like right now. I would also like to see Sunday hunting. As a father who works five days and six days a week, it is damn hard to find time to pass on this great sport to my son. I think we need to get with the times, we can do everything else on Sunday, why not hunt? What is the difference between fishing on Sunday, shopping on Sunday, shooting rodents on Sunday, trapping on Sunday the list goes on and on. Thank you for a chance to participate in this survey!
- I feel that license fees are enough - no further "user fees" are needed. Our system of taxation provides for all people to share the burden of all costs.

- The Wildlife Branch needs restructuring and new direction, including new leaders. No respect now from many sources. The Department needs a house cleaning - get rid of deadwood and political appointees who are hindering contemporary management, not promoting it. Some persons are more interested in their personal goals and achievements and a desire to be recognized as leaders but will not happen.
- The harvest of wildlife should be governed the same for all people of the province. Natives should have specific bag limits. Native hunting should only be allowed with their traditional weapons, (willow) bow and arrows, no firearms, or nets. They want their traditions recognized but don't hunt in traditional ways. Netting out of fish in small lakes (some stocked) is happening. Why should white man pay to stock lakes for recreational fishing only to have native people net them out, usually leaving in said nets to rot?
- If you can't read my handwriting then call me in for an interview. I'd be glad to give you the full story of the damages done in this area by Pine Falls Paper Co., Manitoba Natural Resources, Manitoba Hydro, Department of Northern Affairs. I feel all spraying of any chemicals near any berry picking grounds or waterways should be stopped. Should have community approval before anything is done. Trappers should be given keys for all gates that go up on any trapline; If I don't get a key for RIL#14 I will be taking this issue to court; it's not fair for the loggers to have keys and the trapper kept out.
- The taking of wild animals from the wild for commercial gain such as elk ranching cannot be justified when the elk population is already so low in the Duck Mountain and Interlake areas of the province. The excuse of depredation is no longer acceptable and never was in my opinion. A provincial review is warranted to explain the mismanagement of our elk herd in Manitoba.
- To insure that most of these policies are adhered to, I would suggest the following: hunters / fisherpersons / ecotourism and other persons going into remote areas, not accessible by road – must apply for permits from natural resources. Reasons: 1-If travel is by water or foot you would have info as to who was in the area and when. 2-Before anyone can be flown into a remote area to hunt or fish, they must present the permit to the airline who would be dropping them off. (a) You prevent doubling up groups in same area. (b) If overkill takes place you have some control. (c) Prevent over-hunting the area. (d) Safety. (e) They can be checked on at anytime. (f) Environment damaged can be policed. (g) Private aircraft must advise transport where and when they are flying into remote areas.
- In reference to Oak Hammock Marsh, which was constructed with public funds for public use, since Ducks Unlimited building their interpretive centre there (an added bonus) the charge for parking located in such a manner which denies access to the "public" marsh should be altered. If Ducks Unlimited wants to charge for parking, for access to their building, the gate should be placed further east just past the access road to the marsh. It is not fair to the public who wish to enjoy the marsh with their families to have to pay for something that was once free and developed with tax payers money.
- Manitoba has led the way in barbless hooks. Sad but true, in our province I cannot buy single barbless hooks. I buy in the USA. For Silsby Lake Lodge and out-posts. Single barbless not only save trophy fish but increase the numbers caught and released. Example of fishermen from Tennessee caught and released 40 trophies on Silsby in one week. A father - 2 teenage sons and 1 friend caught and released 49 in 1 week at Silsby, in August. I use cradles - do not allow deep nets. Too much stress, northerners are kings in our lakes. I wish you would outlaw weighing machines that are also gaff hooks. Make the use-law. We do not destroy northerns 30 inches and over, or walleye over 5 pounds or 22 inches - are released.
- I get the feeling from the Crown that all natural resources are for sale at the right price, i.e., Louisiana Pacific cutting contract in the Duck Mountain. I hope in the future that the Crown will not sell off the natural resources but will keep them for all, (future generations) to enjoy. Money isn't everything! (Again this survey was extremely repetitive.)
- Can Manitoba's commitment to preserving wildlife stocks on a sustainable level be taken seriously when: 1) 13 weeks of upland game bird season are allowed in most hunting areas. This is way too long and gives illegal users an excuse to be out with guns! 2) Moose seasons are held in southern units that have no moose (brain worm). The logic used by officials, they are going to die anyway from brain worm...

3) 13 weeks of bear hunting per year is a ridiculous amount not to mention the inadvertent killing of mothers with cubs. Bears can be a problem but unlimited hunting is not the solution. World wide, bears are being threatened. We have a season for bears that's as long as the one for ruffed grouse. They are hardly comparable. Baiting and bear outfitters should be stringently controlled! 4) Increasingly people are living in the country where you could run into wildlife! Compensation for the slightest damage should not be given, part of being there.

- I agree only if all of the above includes all Canadians. What is illegal for me should be illegal for all. Not long ago I went hunting with my friend, a native Indian. He used my ATV vehicle, drove all over the place and I had to walk beside. I am 70 years old. My friend is 35. I am not opposed to designated routes, but the system stinks. This is only one small sample of many. If I'd get caught violating the law, they take my truck, my ATV, gun and wife! My friend gets away with anything. If he gets a fine, government pays it for him. I feel like second class. All your efforts, including this questionnaire, are completely useless, unless you change the system. Hundreds of millions of dollars worth are destroyed every year of which government knows nothing about. I have worked many days, spent a lot of my own money for fish enhancement. The natives come with their nets, lake after lake, and clean them out. Sometimes the authorities take the nets away from them, so his brother goes the next day and does the same thing. Until the laws change this problem will only get worse. I have seen them shoot 3 elk cows about to give calves and only take 2 hindquarters. Seven frozen deer on a half-ton truck, they were asked, why did you not gut them? They said the dogs don't mind if they are gutted or not. A big truck with a freezer unit on board with native Indians shooting moose in the Porcupine Mountains. They told my son they were from Wabowden. When asked why they didn't shoot moose in their area, they said there were none left. These types of things happen spring, fall, just any old time! Much of their shooting is done at night off the road. I have seen truck loads of debris left behind in the woods last fall in one campsite after a 3 day stay. I have to clean up after myself. I can't find any human rights in Canada. Many people have become very discouraged. We feel like giving up in trying to protect our environment. Many have.
- I believe that Aboriginal people should be educated and integrated into our resource management and use.
- On the surface, the presentation and approach appears very genuine. However, reading between the lines, things have already been decided. As is usually the case, the exercise appears to provide the individual with the opportunity to be a part of something but in reality, it does not. Some obvious flaws are: 1) Assumes everyone is a hunter, fisher or cottager. 2) Assumes that all natural habitats will be manipulated in some form or other. 3) Farmers, landowners rights / concerns ignored and not addressed. 4) Organized for hunter and fisher use, not conservation. 5) Assumes every owner's property can and will be manipulated and / or taken if government so wishes. 6) Questions are vague, e.g., outfitting, for what, photos or hunting? 7) Classifies tourists and hunters as the same entity - which is not the case. These must be kept separate. 8) Private partnerships with organizations/associations not a great idea - those contributing large amounts of funds usually request and get special privileges contrary to the rules for their monetary contribution! 9) Landowner's right to privacy and security of self and property will cease to exist. 10) Strategy will force the sell-out of private land with recreational potential to accommodate hunters, fishers, cabin owners - whether owner wishes to or not, by whatever means those in charge can manipulate. 11) Enforcement agencies, e.g., conservation officers, don't seem to be an integral part of this plan. Are they going to be just a "figurehead"? 12) Focus only on sustainability but nothing on preservation of natural systems, e.g., natural lakes without development of lake, restocking of lakes with native fish species. "Benchmark ecosystems"- where are these? Are we going to eradicate / manipulate all natural systems just for the pleasure use of a few fishes, hunters and cottagers?
- Definition of a "plant". What about evasive species growing wild? I.e., European buckthorn, purple loosestrife. Eradication program policy and funding need to be addressed in this area. It is good to see that plants are now viewed as wildlife. A very positive step.
- Managing our resources and environment is a huge responsibility. Always remember decisions should be based on sound, scientific principles. There is no room for half-truths and emotions. Always remember, man is an integral part of the environment and that there are times mother nature needs to be nurtured.

- As in every other human activity, there is a certain percentage of hunters, fishermen, snowmobiliers, farmers, etc, that treat our wildlife in ways that contravene the law. This group is very small, thank god. It is the rest of the citizens in the above group that do the most to protect and nurture our wild heritage. Education of the urban populace is the best way to make them aware of our treasures. They need to be involved for the good of all, to have the whole picture. They are missing out on a most satisfying experience by not knowing and enjoying our wildlife and wild places. We must show them how.
- Enhance and protect the land for wildlife and all of its uses (consumptive or not), for residents and visitors alike. Opportunities are to be increased for wildlife interaction and use, not decreased.
- Six member panel of our membership participated in completing this survey. We believe that it reflects the majority view of our association, the Brokenhead River Game and Fish.
- The Crown is permitting the decimation of the habitat by wood processors and harvesters. For example plywood producers and paper plants. Clear cutting makes for unacceptable changes that many species cannot tolerate.
- I am concerned with the attitude of conservation officers when checking hunters or trappers instead of encouraging people to enjoy the activity. The assumption is that you are doing something wrong. This is discouraging people from hunting and purchasing licenses, etc. Why aren't winter seasons aligned with school holidays so that parents could involve their children in hunting activities?
- In regards to wildlife ownership (in captivity), the wildlife should be owned by the individual and not the Crown. We are allowed to buy a permit to shoot a deer and "own" its meat, but we are not allowed to capture wildlife, keep it alive and healthy, and own it!
- Wildlife protection is nothing but words if we continue to allow a wide variety of polluters to continue a slow destruction of habitat. Logging companies, hog plants, fertilizer companies, trucking companies, all seem to have a higher priority.
- We as hunters are very concerned over the inroads the anti-hunters are making in Canada and are now lobbying in Manitoba, on a variety of fronts through the Humane Society, trying to stop the spring bear hunt etc., as they have in Ontario. We feel as taxpayers in Manitoba, our rights should take precedence over the US funded activists trying to take our hunting and fishing heritage away.
- In order to protect our wildlife we need to protect our lands. I feel the biggest threat to our wild lands is the expansion of agriculture. The use of Wildlife Management Areas for grazing will be devastating to the ecosystem. I know some experts will say that minimal grazing is good for prairie restoration and grass development, but just remember when the land gets leased out and a fence is built at approximately $300 per mile. Minimal grazing does not become economically viable. Producers and their associations will lobby the Department of Agriculture (which presently has more authority than Natural Resources) to allow more extensive grazing so farmers can recover their costs at a faster rate. And on some lands you may see major land clearing because more grass = more dollars. As years go on, what was once a beautiful natural wildlife management area will gradually become an ordinary cow pasture. With signs saying "Please close the gates," "Follow the Trails" and if the right people get into power, the signs will say "Private Property Keep Out!" Please don't let this happen. Thank you.
- I spend an average of 60-80 days in the Duck Mountains each year as a registered trapper, ecotour operator, and a guy that just loves nature. Having a 2 year diploma in renewable resources gives me more of an understanding of the changes I've noticed in the last 20 years in the ducks. I may just be wasting ink here so I will keep this short and sweet. Here are just a few of my "why" questions to which I think you know the answers: Why is spruce logging done in aspen bluffs logged by Louisiana Pacific? It seems that a lot of blocks have a spruce bluff close by. These scattered spruce blocks are few and far between in some areas and provide valuable cover in an otherwise predominantly aspen forest. Why are ATV's ("Run amuck in the Ducks" 1997-1998-1999) allowed in a provincial park? They result in extensive damage to beaver dams, meadows, etc. Not to mention wildlife harassment which I know occurs. Don't forget the beer cans! Snowmobile derbies in the park results are similar. Why not consult registered trappers more on issues as they are the ones who can best inform you? They know their areas better than anyone. (Nesting sights, moose calving areas, etc.).

Why in most of Louisiana Pacific's aspen cuts do you find oil spills, empty containers, etc.? Doesn't anyone care? Every year, I see more garbage in the woods. I pick it up but it's a losing battle. (One large oil spill was just pushed into a pond.) Why in the Ducks are there so many access roads that lead nowhere? A good majority of these roads could be closed, eliminating the harassment of wildlife, etc. Why not put a maximum quota on trappers to prevent the over-harvest of such mammals as the pine martin when the prices go up? Beavers create habitat and an over-harvest of beaver will practically change an area. Why not take the wolf off the non-resident tag system in the Ducks? I have found wolves (and deer) with their heads removed. It's a crying shame to see this but it happens every year! Out of room and out of ink! Call me if any of this makes sense.

- Elk ranching should be illegal, and the government should compensate all their ranchers that they issued animals to. Provincial parks should not allow hunting or any other resource extraction...this would make them a real benefit to wildlife. Province must be willing to work cooperatively with other organizations.
- There should be no logging or mineral extraction in any provincial park. Manitoba should protect a larger percentage of their designated park and wildlife areas from commercial use. I am appalled at the devastation of forest that took place from the Bird River bridge to the Bird Lake cut-off on highway 315 (Nopiming Park). The province is selling itself very cheaply when it succumbs to pressure from the lumber or mining industries. I am sure there are many areas outside of park boundaries which could be utilized.
- Any strategy implemented must first be economically sound: no money - no action. It is noted that the numbers of "chiefs" in Natural Resources is large compared to the number of Indians. There is a wall between the companies we work with and the minister. Where does the info die? As a farmer / cattle producer, I invite anyone to come and see what we do and what our place is in the ecosystem. The gates are open. You may even find we're quite normal.
- The all-weather road is a terrible idea. You think there is pollution now, wait. Manitobans do not truly realize the effect this will have on the environment or our children and children's children. I realize the money involved, however we need to re-evaluate priorities. It will cost us more money as well as things money can't buy in the long run. There will also be socio-economic problems that will increase due to the road, which will cost lots of money. Alcoholism.

Group Workshop Additional Comments

The following are additional comments made at workshops in Arborg, Ashern, Dauphin, Neepawa and Winnipeg.

- Consistency.
- Close archery season for deer while elk or moose season is on.
- Wildlife management areas should be for wildlife. Cattle should not be allowed.
- Where does license money go? General fund?
- License money to Natural Resources and Tourism Act.
- Trapping season starts too early.
- Lengthen deer seasons - biological reasons, not [?].
- Why are gates open in fall, on Fish Lake, water?
- Natural Resources should be able to respond more quickly for seasons - limits etc.
- Formal group and mediate user conflicts.
- To see an increase in the agricultural use of Wildlife Management Areas controlled grazing, benefit to both agriculture and wildlife.
- Property owner entitled to one elk, no questions asked.
- Money from agricultural land users be referred to Crown land development.
- Charge a fee for other users of Crown land, i.e., berry picking, Seneca root.
- No concern for harvesting of wildlife and however, their harvest food should not be sold.
- Outfitters as with all hunters should be required to take appropriate training.
- Aboriginal peoples should be encouraged to participate in wildlife management to the benefit of all.
- Defining wildlife to include plants - is this just to list them or to protect them or to control their use?
- Ownership of wildlife - should the province be allowed ownership of animals? Public ownership would change the definition.

- Over-regulation of the Wildlife Act.
- Downside is that it is over-regulated.
- There should be major cuts to regulations.
- Results of over-regulation is in some cases contempt for the Wildlife Branch - chases hunter out of the field - reduces numbers of hunters dramatically.
- Aboriginal Treaty rights hunting can or cannot be monitored. Aboriginal hunting rights should not be second consideration but on equal basis with Manitobans.
- Discuss legislation and administration - very difficult to do when the Wildlife Act is connected to 5 or 6 other Acts.
- Missed many people at the meeting because they didn't know.
- Concern number. 1: In Neepawa the person has a problem with deer in town and even a situation where a person hit a deer in the back alley.
- In Miniota south a sheep farmer: The person has six strand electric fence and alarms. Solution: a bounty put on coyotes. They also have horses being the size of an animal to help keep the coyotes away.
- A farmer who has an orchard on their farm has problems with deer.
- Perhaps if the cattle farmer would complain the government might put a bounty on coyotes. Also an idea is to put bounty on these coyotes in the summer time when the trapper is not busy trapping fur.
- The government at present pays a compensation to the sheep farmer but maybe other methods such as the bounty would be better and at a lower cost. Perhaps the excess deer population is a cause for the excess coyote population
- Perhaps if the grader driver was given a gun he would shoot the skunks and the coyotes.
- Another idea is if the big game hunter was given permission to shoot coyotes at deer season.
- Tourism: a way to promote the American tourist is to put an ad in the Chicago newspaper. Get your own fur collar: come to Manitoba and shoot a coyote. Cost $100, no other licence required.
- Also, support a recommendation that the province promote hunting as an activity of significant importance to Manitoba.
- Need to recommend that the Department of Education build the concept of sustainable development into all phases of education curriculum, from K-12, and throughout university programs.
- Concern over loss of habitat in Ducks and Porcupine by logging by Louisiana Pacific.
- Crown Land / Wildlife Management Areas should not be sold / leased for private profit - belongs to people and intended for wildlife.
- Legislation - need for legislation to protect legitimate resource users from harassment.
- Other areas: Education - must have balanced program for schools and Department of Natural Resources would need to provide such material.
- Habitat: habitat is the key to healthy, abundant wildlife populations.

Questionnaire Comments on the Public Participation Process

- In an overview many suggestions are well intentioned in this survey. I do hope that this project does not get bogged down with too much administration to the effect that very little trickles down to where it is needed. Also in some cases the actions to preserve our ecosystem must have quick, almost omnipotent powers to even stop major projects. Also I feel, whoever works on a board or committee of this type must be varied to reflect the varied interests, but sustainable development must be the most important consideration.
- The round table format for the northern areas especially do not work. Pay people, organizations (careful though) to go around and do surveys. Less money and I bet a million dollars, better realistic results! More accurate! Does anyone really listen to what people say at these meetings? Also make the information brochures and worksheets you pass out easier for the ordinary person. A lot of people get turned off and don't get involved!
- What you have here is a very tall order - so good luck to you folks in making it happen.
- I think I should get a T-shirt or a hat for taking the 2 hours to finish this survey. I know you probably can't but if you can.
- This is a very "glossed over" approach to wildlife management. If we cannot afford adequate care for the human population how can one expect such lustrous protection for our environment and wildlife. Dream on and spend some more of my tax dollars.
- This survey is a very long instrument. At times conflicting terms appear in one statement (conflicting in my mind, at least). In six or more instances the same question is repeated. The survey seems to take for granted the commercial use of wildlife, along with private / personal use when these are quite distinct areas, to my mind. I am particularly disturbed by the government gift of our aspen parkland to the Louisiana Pacific Co. and the introduction and encouragement of elk ranching. As well, provincial parks should afford protection to habitats and species, however they are subject to commercial exploitation as well...Protection cannot just begin at some future date...the mistakes of the past need urgent remediation.
- Document could have been proof-read better. Some of the questions were not complete sentences.
- A very good questionnaire. Could be cut in half. Many questions and issues were repeated more than once. I took 5-6 hours to complete this survey. If this survey was put in laymen's terms and cut in 2 and sent to people who use and enjoy the outdoors in the many activities, hunting, fishing, swimming, boating, camping, hiking, skiing, etc. All these people have the interest, but not the patience or intellect to answer this survey in its present format. I had a hard time myself, and needed help in understanding what was being asked of me. Almost have to be a Harvard lawyer to understand all of this survey.
- In my opinion this is far too lengthy and far too in-depth for the average individual to understand. In general, I am strongly in agreement with wildlife and plant life conservation programs.
- This questionnaire? Appears to be a high-handed way of rubber-stamping set policy. I decree the fact that this expensive statement and the expensive people who have made it is being paid for out of my hard earned tax dollars. The Aboriginals, Metis, myself and you were all born in Canada. We should all be treated the same, not different. We are all brothers in this land. Until the abuses of animals and fish are stopped, either by white or black or red, there can be no agreements on the direction of sustainable development. You eggheads may think I am speaking only as a lone, twisted individual but give a large group of people a blind (hidden) test and I believe you might be surprised to find the vast majority agree with me! Unreasonable to expect volunteers to take a week of time to read and try to understand workbook and questionnaire so that an intelligent response could be made. Two-three pages every month times 12 might be more reasonable.

- This questionnaire is too bureaucratic, long and repetitive. Most of the ideas put forward look good, but it is merely pie in the sky. How could this province ever hope to carry on and develop all of these programs and plans?
- This survey is comprehensive but much too long; 569 questions to read and to respond to, is asking a lot of people, and some individuals probably were deterred from participating for this reason. I would suggest for future surveys, 200 questions should suffice and provide answers. There is much redundancy in this survey. Some questions were asked twice. In relation to the above point, I doubt if Manitoba Natural Resources has sufficient staff to carry out all these recommendations; although the goals are worthy. How does Manitoba Natural Resources cope with ever-increasing demands by industries for lands needed by wildlife...e.g., woodland caribou and sturgeon. Thanks for the opportunity to participate in a subject I feel about and support strongly. I think the department does well with its tight resources.
- I'm quite impressed with this questionnaire as it touches base on so many important issues which are ever so important and couldn't be a better time to be addressed. If we are to save what's left of our future and deal with all the articles mentioned and if we all try to cooperate and work together, our youth may be able to hold on to so many great things. Good luck to a better tomorrow. Thanks.
- "Written by biologists for biologists" - Do not be surprised if public participation dries up or fails to materialize if you use this format at public meetings. You had better be prepared to put this material into lay terminology or most public will turn off and fail to see your intentions. Ask simple questions, get simple answers. You will get very few of these questionnaires back even though they are in the hands of many. Smarten up!
- This is a poorly prepared questionnaire in that the questions are poorly worded, and often repetitive. Many people I have talked to do not understand half of the questionnaire and they are the users of the resources. You will not get a feeling of what the public thinks until you simplify this type of questionnaire and I think once many people read / or attempt to complete this package, they will feel like they are not part of the process wither by education or understanding of the issues you put forward here, and will not come to the public forums. Be prepared for lots of feedback on this questionnaire - mostly negative.
- There is no reason that this questionnaire could not be presented in language that is much more understandable and in lay terms. Many questions had to be reread to realize intent. In many cases the questions were given with multi-type resources. Not all respondents are up-to-date on government "buzz words".
- This survey was too long, but a great series of questions.
- The cost of this project will be substantial. The project must be managed with set goals, time limits and within budget, or it will be shelved like so many other studies or initiatives that were started but had no end in sight or ran out of money. For this to work, it has to have the support of all the people of Manitoba, who will demand results of the government.
- Thank you for sending this information to me. I found it very informative in several areas.
- I would be surprised if you get a 10% return of this survey. I spent approximately 8-10 hours and there are many people who don't have that time to spare. Too lengthy. Language too difficult for average person. Format is confusing. Misprints in suggestions. Too many boxes.
- To properly evaluate and answer each and every statement or question simply took too much time. The questionnaire was not "user friendly" and I eventually gave up before completion.
- Overall, the statements produced in the document are positive, and certainly supportable and commendable. The Department of Natural Resources already strives to adhere to the large majority of these issues. It will be good for the province's natural resources to see these policies regulated. Unfortunately, many of the issues may appear to be overly ambitious, especially in these days of fiscal restraints. In order to fully achieve all these guidelines set out in this document, the province of Manitoba must increase the Department of Natural Resources budgets significantly, otherwise, these commendable goals will continue to be hollow words on paper, with no teeth to carry out these ideas with actions.

- Great questionnaire.
- Does anyone really expect thoughtful responses to this many questions? I would gladly and thoughtfully answer 50 well-considered questions - but 500?? These aren't even questions, they seek reaction only.
- This document has a number of formatting errors - and was obviously not proofed very well!
- A subject as important as this certainly deserved more rigorous proofing!
- While the saying goes: "Better late than never"; I feel this should have been initiated years ago. Good luck with meeting the criteria in this questionnaire and I hope the funding is there to execute these goals.
- Keep up the great work!
- Questionnaire is much too long, and too much repetition. I would not take the time to fill out another one. You would probably get more and better results by having a shorter form.
- Survey is too long, too comprehensive, and too time-consuming.
- This questionnaire was laborious and often repeated itself. Will this be a reflection of the bureaucracy and legislation that we can expect? Why wasn't some sort of wildlife plan in place before the province set up 5.4 million hectares of protected area?
- This document reminds me of the story about the king and his invisible clothes. Some bureaucrat trying to impress other bureaucrats wrote this muck up. He did not understand what he was saying and the other bureaucrat that okayed it didn't want to say they didn't understand it either for fear of looking even stupider than they already are. Who in their right mind would send out a questionnaire that slaughters common English and directness of thought, to a common layman such as myself? All this document is about, is some diverse group of bureaucratic do-nothings justifying their do-nothing jobs. Many questions are asked and re-asked. Some are not even worded differently. If this document is indicative of the intelligence, or lack of, of the leaders of our province and our country, then I am afraid, very afraid.
- The policies enclosed are interesting. Some are controversial. Being at some of the workshops would make it easier to answer the questionnaire better. Some questions are hard to answer by some members.
- This survey is an excellent vehicle. I only hope that it reaches an audience outside the "hunting community" who can provide an objective view on the points put forward. Again, well done.
- This questionnaire is too tedious and mundane because: 1) It is far too long. 2) almost all the statements, 99% of them, are Motherhood and Apple pie. I lost my enthusiasm as a respondent to this questionnaire after the first 3 pages.
- This questionnaire is a long-winded useless documents that contradicts itself and lets the authors come to whatever conclusion they wish.
- This entire questionnaire is badly written with issues duplicated and, in many cases, questions within sections duplicated. Is this indicative of the poor planning which has gone into this policy plan? The concept of additional land protection in addition to the existing 12% protected lands target will have a detrimental effect on resource use. The various initiatives should be coordinated to many that, wherever possible, protected lands also include protected species for a total of 12%. Constant stream of protection initiatives has a very negative impact on resource users.
- A personal note...Our club organized a special meeting, broke up into small working groups and went through the workbook and questionnaire. We found the questionnaire to be quite lengthy, in some case questions were vague and misleading, i.e., we didn't know what we were agreeing or disagreeing with. In general, the comments I heard that night were no "special status" or treaty rights for anyone. If we want to ensure viable wildlife populations for generations to come, we'd better get our act together and all abide by the same rules and regulations. All the protection in the world for our moose and elk populations won't do us any good if we allow some to harvest them at any time of year and any way possible. Under-funding of Department of Natural Resources in general is also a big problem. Thank you.
- One of the most important issues I can address as "a general public" is the involvement through education, media, whatever public awareness and especially public input on issues that will directly affect them is necessary for respect of our government. If the public is not informed or opinions asked - they will be more likely to fight decisions that are made. This confer-

ence with a public hearing is a good idea but it needed to be advertised and more readily available. These issues concern everybody, and therefore everybody who wants a say in these issues should have the chance. This advertising was poor, it should have been advertised in the paper and on TV / radio, so the general public, not just specialty, can have a say.

- If this questionnaire was printed in layman's language I would have been able to answer questions better. Sorry. With the treaty number being handed out to everyone, even Icelanders, there is not going to be too much moose, or fish left.
- The Round Table and Manitoba Natural Resources should be commended on the thorough and comprehensive coverage and therefore high level of opportunity for the public to comment or see aspects of a new revised Wildlife Act and wildlife management in Manitoba. However the lengthy, somewhat repetitive and detailed nature of the questionnaire likely contributes to incomplete, inaccurate or even avoidance of its completion.
- There are far too many questions. People just will not answer them all or if they do, they will put little thought into the answers. I agree with protecting wildlife habitats, however man really can do little else to protect plants and animals. There are just too few conservation officers to enforce all the rules and regulations we already have. More rules, regulations, controls and fees will only discourage full utilization of our natural resources such as hunting, fishing, trapping and commercial activities.
- What a big farce. I went to a public workshop and formal presentation and still do not understand what this is all about. This scares the heck out of me. At one formal presentation beaver problems came up. One of Manitoba Round Table personnel quoted that the beaver population rose because wolf numbers were down. This person said beaver was most of its diet. What does it eat in winter when all the water is frozen? This scares the heck out of me.
- This questionnaire is much too long and many questions are redundant (or at least similar enough not to be asked repeatedly). The most important component is to make sure legislation protects wildlife as a priority.
- As I have heard time and time again, the workbook is too long, too convoluted. People are under the impression our views really do not mean anything. The length and complexity was done to temper the amount and passion of responses. I sincerely hope this was not the case! Angling and hunting and trapping are under increased scrutiny and attack. We need help from the Department to attend to this problem. The old adage, "Hunters have to clean up their act" in order to continue has little validity when the entire spectrum of animal use is under attack. "We can clean up our act until we have scrubbed ourselves out of existence." Goal achieved by anti-forces. Think about it.
- Good idea in consulting public opinion (if) it will be used in some of the decision-making process. If this was just an exercise in PR relations it has been a waste of my time. In the future, if requesting public input, make your questionnaires simpler, more direct, and to the point. Thank you and have a nice day.
- These workbooks are wonderful. We really do need to open our eyes if we are fortunate to have sight and I hope the Manitoba Government takes those who are unfortunate, maybe they'd like to help out and who knows, maybe they could be a great deal of help as well as others who should be given a chance who are unfortunate with some kind of disability. It may help them cope better as they are human also, no matter what. We can't choose to be ignorant to their conservation and environmental needs. How about Braille books and more programs to help save the province?
- Many questions are repetitive. Many, many more. People can be tricked quite easy. I do not agree with partnerships with Aboriginals as they are the worst abusers of wildlife. Hunting off of reserves, taking selective parts of animals. They should hunt on reserves only, manage their fur and animals. Too much night hunting by Aboriginals.
- This document is far too complicated. It is also disappointing to see obvious typographical and grammatical errors. Apparently the Round Table found it too tedious to proofread.
- This questionnaire is far too repetitive. All this could have been asked in half the amount of paper.
- This is probably the worst survey I have ever participated in.

- This questionnaire should not be much more than one or two pages. It would be much more accurate. The way it is would discourage the best of them.
- Too complicated! Average person wouldn't have a clue what some questions mean! Make it easier! Some guess work done.
- This survey was too long!
- On the surface, the presentation and approach appears very genuine. However, reading between the lines, things have already been decided. As is usually the case, the exercise appears to provide the individual with the opportunity to be a part of something but in reality, it does not.

Group Workshop Comments on the Public Participation Process

The following are comments made at workshops in Arborg, Ashern, Dauphin and Winnipeg.

- Not familiar with book to discuss policies.
- Need to go over suggested policies first before discussion - most people were not familiar with the workbook enough to discuss it.
- How do you agree or disagree with statements that you have just seen and are given such a short time to understand or figure them out?
- We can respond any way to the questionnaire but in the end the government will decide what they want.
- Workbooks not distributed soon enough.
- May of the questions in the wildlife survey were worded in such a way as to be construed as generic policy that could be used to the benefit of opposing user groups. We felt that the questions should have been worded more succinctly so that the meaning of each statement could have been more easily understood and properly responded to, which would have provided the Round Table even more useful and poignant information for feedback.

Staff Workshop Notes on the Public Participation Process

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Pine Falls, Portage, Steinbach, Thompson, Wabowden and Winkler.

- Hard for local people to understand issues in strategy.
- There is a concern that this exercise is a waste of time.
- Recommend meetings in Shamattawa, War Lake, Nelson House and Gillam.
- Workbook should be entitled "Workbook on Wildlife and First Nations."
- Are the policies tied to the protect areas strategy?
- Lack of acknowledgement in workbook on positive effects of forest management on wildlife. Should note that agriculture has had more of an impact on wildlife that has forestry. Lack of explicit acknowledgement of current cooperative participation between forest industry and others in wildlife management projects.
- Concern that some organizations may have more influence on process than others.
- Workbook too long and ideas maybe too lofty for some.
- Workbook is very long and detailed.
- Workbook doesn't make enough reference to role of cattle grazing, and no representative from grazers on Manitoba Round Table.
- Intimidated by workbook; glad attended; unsure of what direction was being taken; unsure of how certain terms, especially "humane", are defined in the context of the workbook; has bearing on outcome of policy.
- Hope that this process isn't another attempt to introduce more rules and regulations.
- Questionnaire too wordy and vague (e.g., 3.1a); can't agree / disagree with the statements, without clarification.

Formal Presentation / Submission Comments on the Public Participation Process

- Sustainable development is perceived as a contradiction in terms, development being associated with commercialization, with profit taking and making. This intrinsic ambiguity breeds distrust. The fact that the word development in the Sustainable Development Act is defined as exploitation, a meaning the English word has never carried, reveals the true nature of the Act, namely sustainable exploitation.
- In regards to the questionnaire, most of the questions can be regarded as "motherhood" - type statements that are designed to get the appropriate answer. Such a questionnaire does not evoke discussion but rather supports a redesigned strategy. It would be easy to design such questions for any group. I would choose the following question: Do you want mining jobs in the north? agree - neutral - disagree. Who can reasonably argue with that statement?
- Many of the processes described in the workbook are already in place. What are clearly new initiatives and which are old?
- Working on policy statements (as in the questionnaire) is premature. There is not enough information available to stakeholders and perhaps policy developers.
- We feel that new initiatives regarding "Sustainable Development and Wildlife" are being rushed. It isn't clear what effect these initiatives will have on the lives and businesses that will be most affected by them.
- Why wasn't this process piggybacked onto Manitoba's Protected Areas Initiative that has already selected and withdrawn 5.4 million hectares or 8.3% of the province? Why are we going through an area selection process twice?
- I understand that it is easier to deal with individual pieces of the environment at one time. However, in any ecosystem it is the relationship of the different components that creates the whole. Shouldn't we be looking at the environment as a whole rather than one component at a time.
- Why is the questionnaire designed to determine answer or comment consistency? This duplication of purpose has produced an unnecessarily long and laborious questionnaire. How many people will actually make an effort to fill it out or comment on it?
- I'm writing to you following my participation last night in a Round Table public consultation held here in Brandon regarding Manitoba's Wildlife Management Strategy. I was deeply disturbed by what I heard during the meeting. I also felt ill-at-ease to express my own views before a group which, on the face of it, appeared to be extremely hostile to my position.
- Because I have gone to a few of these, I was neither surprised nor offended by this one.
- A selected view is presented, need pluses and minuses (e.g., peregrine falcons vs. burrowing owls).
- The questionnaire was too lengthy.
- The Manitoba Cattle Producers Association is pleased to see "consultation", "partnership" and "working cooperatively" mentioned on numerous occasions throughout the Workbook On Wildlife and commend the Round Table on these initiatives. We see them as being crucial cornerstones to a successful wildlife strategy.
- On first reading, the objectives, policies and applications contained in this workbook appear laudable. We have difficulty fully supporting them, following careful second thought, because they are written in such general terms that they could be interpreted and put into practice in a variety of different ways. Also, in a number of statements, key terms or phrases are not clearly defined.
- In summary, the use of ambiguous words and statements raises the question of how these policies will be interpreted. A better approach might be to omit all qualifiers and simply recommend that the provincial government actively seek opportunities that would facilitate putting these goals into effect... In some cases, it seems that the specific goal of a policy or application is either not clearly thought out or not clearly explained.
- In general, the overall tone of the Wildlife Workbook seems slanted toward capitalizing on the economic value of wildlife and wildlife habitat. A more reasonable approach would be to recognize all the benefits (e.g., biodiversity) and values (e.g., cultural and spiritual) that wildlife and wildlife habitat contribute to the well-being of ecosystems, in which humans are just one component.

- Some policies and applications presented in the Workbook are agreeable but insufficient information is provided to enable us to decide whether they would work in practice.
- Some of the applications contained several different activities within one statement, some with which the reader may agree and others with which he / she may differ, thereby making it difficult to choose an appropriate response.
- ...your method of distributing the questionnaires is, at best, haphazard and at worst, vulnerable to systematic abuse by some individuals.
- ...the broad and ambiguous manner in which the questions are structured leaves the respondent in the position where they do not know what they are agreeing to by supporting the statement.
- ...we have a concern with how the information that is being collected is going to be used in the development of new policies in the area of natural resources... we strongly urge you to involve organizations such as the Manitoba Wildlife Federation and its affiliates when you are drafting this document.
- The problem with this questionnaire is that the stated policies and questions are of such a high level that, for the most part, it is difficult to imagine that any knowledgeable and responsible person would not "agree" or "strongly agree" with them. What is not clear, however, is why there seemingly exists such a compelling need to proclaim such "high moral ground" policies.
- We find the questionnaire very offensive from the point of view of being a waste of time and money.
- In this case, one can only assume once again that this questionnaire is about politics and bureaucracy rather than substance - an attempt, we suppose, to show that there is significant "public consultation" from a political point-of-view.

Public Presentations and Submissions Received

Presentations:

Becoming an Outdoorswoman - Darlene Garnham

Chuck Dixon

Delta Waterfowl Station - Jim Fisher

Lyall Edgerton

Field And Stream Association For Manitobans With Disabilities - Arnie Sakolinsky

Dr. Jim Irwin

Indigenous Caucus For The Convention on Biological Diversity - Sara Goulet

K. Kingdon

Harry Rintoul

Manitoba Lodges and Outfitters - Don McCrea

Manitoba Cattle Producers District 5 - Claire De'Athe

Manitoba Cattle Producers Association - W. Mc Fadyen

Manitoba Wildlife Federation - Lloyd Lintott

Opaskwayak Cree Nation Resource Committee

Parkland Mews Falconry And Bird Of Prey Education Centre - Rob Wheeldon

Riding Mountain Landowners Association - Bob Sopuck

St. Theresa Point First Nation - Alex Flett

The Organization - Phyllis Abbe

Treaty 1 First Nations

Waterhen First Nation - Chief Harvey Nepinak

Winnipeg Humane Society - V. Burns

Submissions:

Aur Resources - Don Dudek

Mark A. Burch

Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society Manitoba

Darlene Garnham

Abe Ledoux

Manitoba Naturalists Society - John Shearer

Manitoba Cattle Producers Association

Parks Canada - Greg Fenton, Dawn Bronson

W. O. Pruitt, Jr.

Stefanson Farms Ltd. - Randall Stefanson

Steinbach Game & Fish Association - Stephen Brickey

The Organization - Ron Dalmyn

Sharon and Wybo Vanderschuit

Winnipeg Game & Fish - Clarence Thio

BECOMING AN OUTDOORSWOMAN - DARLENE GARNHAM

The suggested objective in Policy Area 6 - Public Awareness and Education reads "to enhance Manitobans' understanding of the relationships of wildlife, the environment, human health, society and the economy." This objective may well be one of the most difficult objectives in the workbook to achieve. Difficult or not, attaining those goals are most important.

Most people want to feel "connected to nature" in some way. Urbanization and life styles have taken their toll as far as this connection is concerned.

Today's youth can be reached far easier than any other sector of society. The province has the ability to provide the balanced range of educational material and the school system can provide the method of reaching the youth. Teachers must have valid resource material available and not rely on one-sided material provided by well-funded special interest groups. Reaching school-age children with a balanced, realistic message is a must, but unfortunately it will be many years before they become the decision-makers in this province. We have several generations of people with somewhat limited knowledge of wildlife-related issues, and unfortunately often this knowledge is misdirected, invalid or misconstrued.

Reaching adults with the message of sound wildlife management becomes a more difficult task. Outside the school system one must depend on other means of conveying this information. In today's society, hectic schedules have many people feeling lucky if they catch a glimpse of the evening news. Educational TV programming, although not always presenting a balanced approach, is one source, as are books and newspapers. The source of knowledge is often just bits and pieces of information that they have read or heard. When adults have leisure time, they want to get away from television and newspapers. Quite often they want to get out of doors and make that "connection to nature," and many want or expect "instant gratification." A possible solution to meeting that need or desire, while providing an educational experience, are participation type programs.

Approximately seven years ago I heard about, and investigated, a program called "Becoming an Outdoors-Woman." I was so impressed by the program I volunteered to run the program here in Manitoba through the Manitoba Wildlife Federation. The program is a weekend long hands-on learning experience designed for women. The enthusiasm and excitement generated is overwhelming. A variety of outdoor skills workshops are offered, with approximately 1/3 relating to hunting, 1/3 relating to fishing, and 1/3 relating to non-consumptive activities (canoeing, backpacking, orienteering, etc.)

Participants to the weekend foster an awareness of our natural resources regardless of their selection of workshops. Every class has important messages regarding wildlife, habitat, biology, etc. Even the sampling of wild game dishes prepared by other participants is important to their overall perspective. The hunting / shooting classes are always well-subscribed, which indicates that women are very interested in hunting even though they may not participate in equal proportion to population. There are many reasons for this, both real and perceived barriers, but the main reason is that they never had the opportunity to learn. Sons normally went camping, fishing or hunting with their fathers and daughters stayed at home. The program has shown that women are equally interested in sound wildlife management, but often aren't afforded the opportunity to learn. Women can experience enjoyable leisure activities while gaining knowledge. This knowledge can later be shared with their children or even grandchildren.

Other organizations offer similar programs with reasonable success, but all are limited to the resources of the organization. A handful of programs reaching a limited number of people is not sufficient. Government must take a lead role with frequent province-wide offerings, ensuring the necessary financial and human resources are available. Partnering with non-government organizations is an excellent idea, however, government must play the major role. For far too long government has not directed resources to this area and that neglect is becoming more and more apparent.

In Policy Area 7 - Human Health & Property Protection - makes a reference to firearm safety being a major concern to many Manitobans. The Manitoba hunter education program started in the early '60s (by hunters) has dramatically reduced the number of firearm incidents. In fact, a recent National Safety Council survey, hunting had the lowest number of injuries per 100,000 participants than football, baseball, golf, tennis, bowling and even billiards and Ping-Pong. A hunter education program offered in the school curriculum would help alleviate these types of unsubstantiated concerns.

The hunters of Manitoba are proud of their unparalleled history of conservation achievements. That history includes education about the wise use of our natural resources. Hunting is part of our outdoor heritage here in Manitoba and an integral part of wildlife management. The time has come for the Province to promote the social and economic value of consumptive uses of wildlife.

Failure to do so will erode at the foundation of wildlife management, and at the way of life of thousands of Manitobans.

Respectfully submitted by Darlene Garnham

CHUCK DIXON

(from C. Dixon notes)

1. The question book: – lengthy, hard to read, re-ploughs old ground – reinvent wheel – smoke and mirror – what happened to Wildlife Strategy for the '90s. i.e., inventory (C.L.I) North American Waterfowl plan.

Diversions, e.g., trapper training, selected statistics, political.

2. Agriculture: – Manitoba Department of Agriculture – Wildlife DNR – the southern scenario – 1966 – Agriculture Wildlife relationships – identified the problems, no action: – experiences as a farm bid on the Red River – Habitat destruction – scorched earth. –waste land vs. cropland – Crown land protection (sales policy for all "good land") – drainage – wetland loss – "satellite now" – pesticides, chemicals, (carbo furan, anhydrous, owls?) – bigger is better, clean form, no value from wildlife, liability – game farming – livestock waste and the environment (Badger Creek), ground water; steward of the land concept is not accepted.

3. Hunters and hunting: – the lobby, the advocate group. Call them "animal manager's – bureaucratic wonderment – declining No's, the nos game; – cost; complication – gun control; – loss of rural value-depopulation – licensing, regulations, over-policing – Manitoba, what if hunters were a political reality – steel shot and barbless hooks, purple loosestrife, too many snow geese (diversions, avoid real issues).

Wpg and red fox – the London Words Experiment. – early dvp: fox, jackrabbits, voles, skunks, geese, ducks, robins – mid dvp: geese, ducks. Now – robins, geese and ducks on the run.

Peregrine Falcons – urban wildlife – slimbridge

11000 questionnaires – returned – biased – inaccurate

Create the problem – then fix it – the VLT and addictions foundation phenomena

1921- "In my book a pioneer is a man who turned all the grass upside down, strings barb wire over the dust that was left, poisoned the water, cut down the trees, billed the Indian who owned the land and calls it progress. If I had my way the land here would be like God made it and none of you sons of bitches would be here at all." (Charles Russel)

1999 –add "sprayed chemicals, drained the sloughs, grabbed every inch of soil, planted a few trees in rows and called it conservation."

Problem – mega farms, chemicals, fertilizer, waste disposal (animal husbandry).

In my book a modern robber baron is a man who strips shrubs and trees, turns prairies upside down, strings barb wire over the dust that is left, poisons the land and water with chemicals and fertilizer, drains sloughs and marshes then plants a few shrubs in rows and calls it progress. If I had my way the remaining critical habitat would be reclaimed and protected with laws that had some teeth and sustainable would be more than idle chatter and fancy words. What happens to wildlife happens to us all.

What's new?

You can expect nothing whatsoever from the Queen's government except words, your only hope are the wildlife (buffalo) and it will not be many years before that source of supply will cease. (RCMP commissioner James McLeod in response to Sitting Bulls request for a Canadian reservation for his group of Sioux, 1877.)

Govt. Agricultural wildlife policy. If it's valuable get it in the Manitoba Department of Agriculture: - fenced shooting. –buffalo farming. –elk farming – illegal (what happened to Natural Resource Officer enforcement in the period 1980-1997)

Local. – drainage, current? – PFRA takeover of Provincial Forest (Turtle Mountain) $ disposal area – moose mismanagement, vetra conservative folly –Whitewater lake, botulism fiasco – parks plan, where is the wildlife component? – media (baloney) – fine management? – fragmentation of habitat.

Report on Turtle Mountain Moose mismanagement. All the criteria (inventory, aerial surveys, complete models, projections, controlled area, habitat study) adds up to "gross mismanagement" – overpopulation, no predators, - decadent forest, no fire, no cut - starvation – tick secondary - die-offs - damaged habitat, declining support - livestock competition, PFRA, cows and horses, ma "provincial forest" - Other species to the farm migration.

No sustainability here, problem, if you can't politically manage a tiny area like this, what can you manage?

Future: Change landowner attitudes, change agriculture's scorched earth policy, too many regulations, too much law, not enough order.

DELTA WATERFOWL STATION
JIM FISHER

Funding: Department should utilize the full extent of existing hunter fees / conservation stamps directed back to the resource. Also new conservation stamps should be developed. Fines for poaching and environmental violations should also be dedicated. Funds should be used for:

- Promoting hunting
- Monitoring populations
- Habitat conservation

Multi-year and lifetime licences should be considered to increase department funding. Once again, these fees should go directly back to the resource.

Promotion of Hunting: Hunting heritage is important to the people of Manitoba. My great-grandfather, my great-uncle and my uncle all hunted on the Delta Marsh (a heritage marsh) and I would like to see that tradition continued to include my grandchildren.

Delta Waterfowl's work (research and education) to the tune of 2 million dollars annually is funded by hunters who care deeply about our wildlife and the well-being of the resource now and into the future. Delta Waterfowl was founded in 1911 and through the support of hunters continues to invest in the health of wildlife and wildlife habitat.

Should be policy of Department of Natural Resources to promote hunting, a staff position should be assigned.

All new and existing regulations should be examined. We should consider the biological reasoning behind the regulations and also the effect on the potential to encourage or discourage hunting.

Other considerations include the implementation of youth hunting days, hunting on Sunday and a less conservative, more responsive approach to managing our wildlife.

Youth hunting days have been successfully implemented throughout the US for waterfowl and we would recommend doing the same here in Manitoba for waterfowl and other game. Involving our youth has to be a priority. The new youth licence implemented in 1999 is an example of how we can ensure the future of hunting.

Sunday hunting is allowed in most jurisdictions in North America and for good reason - most people have jobs - our only free day to hunt is on Saturdays. There are no biological reasons to not hunt on Sunday and we certainly can do everything else...

Being more responsive to opportunities also adds to the credibility of the department. An example of this is the slow reaction to the snow goose problem by the department. For many years we were allowed to shoot 8 geese. In 1998 and again in 1999 we are allowed to shoot a whopping 10 geese, up a grand total of 2 birds when we want to increase harvest by 2-3 times the current levels. We have known of the environmental implications of the burgeoning goose populations but we remain the slowest to respond. Other jurisdictions are responding and allowing hunters every opportunity possible to increase the harvest in order to save our coastal marshes.

Hunting ethics should be promoted by encouraging hunters to understand how the rest of the public views hunting and act accordingly. Education of hunters, both voluntarily and mandated should include ethics in order to put hunting in as best a light as possible.

Habitat: There should be a no-net-loss policy developed by the province to try to halt the continual loss of wildlife habitat. This should be across the board legislation that would include urban development, agriculture, highways, etc...

LYALL EDGERTON "BOTANY ANGUS FARM"

After reading the book on wildlife, it appears the emphasis is on establishing more habitat whereas at present you cannot manage the wildlife you have and in our area the white-tailed deer have became a menace to agriculture and road traffic the year round. As many as 50 to 75 can be seen at a time on a forty-acre field.

In our area they compete for forage with our livestock on our pastures. In the hay fields they munch year-round reducing the yields. In winter they dig at the alfalfa plant crowns allowing the moisture in, causing the plant to rot and die. When the first snow cover comes they congregate at the bale piles, they climb over the bales defecating and urinating on them making them unpalatable for livestock. Not satisfied with hay they chew and paw holes in grain bins. The damage to barb wire and electric fences is far more extensive and costly than that done by our cattle. On the grain swaths they trample and leave droppings which when combined are mixed in the grain and rejected by the elevators.

Some of the natural resource officers realize there is a serious problem and try to help but their hands are tied by bureaucracy. They have instigated an intercept feeding program with hay and pellets. This has advanced from intercept to a full feedlot program of 80 bags of pellets per week plus 8 bale sites of high quality 2nd cut hay. This doesn't include our labor snow blowing to feeder stations and time and fuel. We contacted crop insurance to find out the damage costs in the past 2 to 3 years. We were referred to Natural Resources in Brandon who then referred us to natural resources in Winnipeg, who said they have the information but to date we have not received it. We also asked for the cost of intercept feeding in our area but have not received that either. When we approached Larry Bidlake to get some changes his only concern was he didn't have a plane to take a survey for deer numbers and only quoted previous surveys, then he appeared on T.V. without even mentioning the trouble spots in his area. For some reason he thinks because you have bush land, it automatically becomes wildlife refuge with no compensation for damages. Other than one phone call I made to him he never came near or contacted me - frankly I feel he should be released from his position.

The deer are a pest as bad as gophers and moles which we poison and shoot. Hopefully we can come up with a better solution for the deer. We allow and encourage hunters with few restrictions in all three hunting seasons. But the number of hunters are declining owing to high license fees and new gun regulations. One problem is, they are trophy hunters not wanting does; extra doe tags could be given

With the meat going to food banks in problem areas, controlled hunts could be conducted by game and fish associations under conservation officers' supervision. Perhaps in problem areas they could be trapped and moved to unpopulated areas, or even start deer farms like the elk farms.

You seem to be concerned about many endangered species but one you have omitted from the list is Manitoba farmers.

Thank you.

FIELD AND STREAM ASSOCIATION FOR MANITOBANS WITH DISABILITIES

Good evening. My name is Arnie Sakolinsky, I am President of the Field and Stream Association for Manitobans With Disabilities. I would like to address what my group perceives as shortcomings in the Wildlife Act.

It is our consideration that the "ACT" should incorporate programs / regulations to facilitate all people who wish to take full advantage of the outdoor experience.

Presently the "ACT" does not address the requirements of special needs participants (i.e. mobility restricted). The Wildlife Branch does have a program whereby mobility-restricted participants may apply for a permit which authorizes use of a vehicle for specified activities while hunting big game. However the present rules only allow the permit holder to use the vehicle to get to and from the hunting grounds. This is considered too restrictive, people who cannot transfer or dismount a vehicle without assistance cannot meet the current regulations. Our organization would like the regulations changed so that a mobility-restricted permit holder could discharge a firearm or bow from a stationary vehicle. As well, a rule change would allow, in many cases, the permit holder to track and retrieve the game themselves. Other provinces allow this and it has proven to be safe and fair for all involved. These changes would allow the mobility-disadvantaged hunter the ability to use our natural resources, as all should be allowed.

As well as changes to hunting regulations, our group would like to see changes that would facilitate easier and better access in provincial parks. These changes would be aimed at making access more readily available to docks, beaches and other park facilities. Docks should be wheelchair accessible and wheelchair safe. Consideration should be given to have at least one dock in each park available with a hoist facility. Equipment should be made available to transport the disabled across or onto beach areas. Consideration should also be given to allow the disabled to acquire a permit to use an ATV in provincial campgrounds in order to enhance their mobility.

More and more members of the disabled community, particularly the Mobility Restricted, are interested in participating in all aspects of the outdoor experiences but the current regulations must be modified so as to recognize and include participation by the disabled.

Thank you for the opportunity to allow our association to make its views known.

Dr. Jim Irwin

Tourism research statistics throughout the western world indicate a rapidly growing demand for non-consumptive tourism products such as wildlife viewing. This trend is expected to grow exponentially as the Baby Boomer generation reaches retirement.

There is a need for governments to recognize this potential tourism bonanza and to make every effort to educate local tourism operators regarding:

- this growing market;
- the needs of prospective non-consumptive clients;
- the principals of ecotourism;
- how to develop and market 'packaged' products.

To facilitate non-consumptive operators by:

- assisting them in promoting their products on a very competitive world market;
- recognizing the validity of their operations and extending them territorial security for their operations, especially to avoid conflict with consumptive operators;
- allow the use of permanent or semi-permanent wildlife viewing structures on Crown Lands;
- recognize non-traditional needs and allow the development of innovative techniques for wildlife viewing;

and set provincial standards for non-consumptive operations.

Private-lands Wildlife Management Areas A proposal and discussion paper by Dr. J. C. Irwin

ABSTRACT

The Private-lands Wildlife Management Area (PWMA) concept is a cooperative community approach to integrating wildlife management with other land uses, particularly agriculture and forestry, on private lands, firstly, to create a sustainable economic resource in rural communities and secondly, to create an economic incentive for retaining and re-establishing habitat, thereby improving the sustainability of the agricultural land base through enhanced soil and water conservation.

In light of the continuous loss of wetlands and woodlands which are crucial for wildlife, soil conservation and water management and the necessity of land owners to diversify and seek income from other sources such as agri-tourism, there is a need 1/ to provide landowners with a monetary reward for preserving their habitat and 2/ to actively develop and promote hunting and other agri-tourism products. In order to insure the sustainability of habitat and rural communities, the author proposes a cooperative community approach to sustainable wildlife management on privately-owned lands whereby land owners in various communities throughout Manitoba would form wildlife management Cooperatives and

- that these areas be designated as Private-lands Wildlife Management Areas (PWMA);
- that hunters would buy PWMA Habitat Stamps and the monies collected would be dispersed among the land owners based on their relative habitat assessment in their PWMA;
- that the Cooperatives have autonomy to control hunting activities in their areas;
- that the Cooperatives actively promote their hunting activities and other agri-tourism products including publishing a directory of hunting opportunities and services and other agri-tourism "packaged" products, such as wildlife viewing, B&B, farm stay, etc.;
- that the Cooperatives promote and facilitate woodlot/wildlife management projects, including such activities as marketing the woodlot products of its members (e.g., lumber and firewood)
- that the Manitoba Department of Natural Resources (DNR) establish guidelines for the operation of PWMAs and that DNR staff work closely with the Cooperatives to set hunting seasons and harvest limits and provide ongoing wildlife management consultation and habitat improvement programs.

Indigenous Caucus for the Convention on Biological Diversity

Creating an Awareness of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Sara Goulet

As a member of the Indigenous Caucus, an indigenous person, a woman and a Canadian, I have a concern that the CBD be implemented. At the national level, meetings are taking place to ensure the federal government is acknowledging, recognizing and implementing the CBD. If there are to be real results however, all levels of government will have to adopt the objectives and consciousness of the CBD.

What is the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)?

It is a legally binding document which came out of the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro (1992), and has been signed by 128 world governments, including Canada. The objectives of the CBD include:

-the conservation of biological diversity,

-the sustainable use of its components,

-the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

The principles and guidelines of Sustainable Development proposed by the MRTSD account for several aspects of the CBD including:

-consciousness of the intrinsic value of biological diversity and it's benefits.

-recognizing that our government is responsible for conserving this diversity.

-recognizing that biological diversity is reduced by certain human activities.

-awareness that Aboriginal and local peoples play a role in this conservation.

-awareness that the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity is of critical importance for meeting the food, health and other needs of our growing population.

-determination to conserve and sustainably use biological diversity for the benefit of present and future generations.

There are some aspects of the CBD which are not accounted for as clearly in the policies and guidelines established by the MRTSD including:

1. Awareness of the general lack of information and knowledge regarding biological diversity and the urgent need to develop scientific, technical and institutional capacities to provide the basic understanding upon which to plan and implement appropriate measures (i.e. the Global Taxonomy Initiative).

   Suggestions:

   Policies and guidelines could:

   a) include a definition of biological diversity:

   "means the variability among living organisms from all sources including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems."

   b) recognize the importance of taxonomy and the need to take an active part in the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI).

   Taxonomy is the science of discovering, describing and naming the individual species of plants and animals, including microscopic forms, that make up the biota, and of elucidating their relationships to provide classification.

   Taxonomy provides the reference system for all organisms, and the framework on which the skills to identify and specify the elements of biodiversity are based.

   In February 1998, The Darwin Declaration began by stating that:

   "The governments of the world that recognize the CBD have affirmed that existence of a taxonomic impediment to sound management and conservation of biodiversity. Removal of this impediment is crucial and the rate-determining step in the proper implementation of the Convention's objectives.

   There is an urgent need to train and support more taxonomic experts, to strengthen the infrastructure required to discover and understand the relationships among the world's biodiversity."

   "A taxonomic perspective should be integrated into policies and programs established at all levels of government to achieve sustainable development and conserve biodiversity."

Support for the GTI could include:

i) support and promote education and training of taxonomists;

ii) preserve existing and increase taxonomic collections;

iii) support efforts to acquire baseline data;

iv) consider indigenous and local peoples as an important existing information source.

2. Noting that where there is a threat of significant reduction or loss of biological diversity, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to avoid or minimize such a threat.

Suggestions:

Policies could more clearly state:

a) the need for and support of research efforts in all areas concerning biological diversity be spelled out clearly.

b) the priority of the conservation of biodiversity, in the form of action rather than research, take first priority.

3. Recognizing the vital role of women in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and affirming the need for the full participation at all levels of policy making and implementation of the biodiversity convention.

4. Recognizing the close and traditional dependence of many indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles on biological resources, and the desirability of sharing equitably benefits arising from the use of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices relevant to the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components (i.e., Article 8j)

Suggestions:

Recognized to a certain extent by the MRTSD, yet the incorporation of Aboriginal peoples, traditional ecological knowledge and local peoples should be clarified.

a) Aboriginal peoples, local community members, women be included in consulting, advising and participating at the ground level. Too often input from these groups is not included until the process is well underway.

b) The entire process and all aspects of the policies and guidelines could benefit from the use of Traditional Ecological Knowledge.

c) The use of Traditional Ecological Knowledge be considered carefully (policy 2.1k)

Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) or naturalized knowledge views the world in a holistic equation of causes and many levels of effects. It is a process which teaches and builds relationships within the community and with the earth. It cannot be separated from the people from whom it comes.

For more information refer to Ph.D. thesis recently completed by Leanne Simmons at the University of Manitoba. It is available at Dafoe Library or through the Center for Indigenous Environmental Resources.

5. Acknowledging that substantial investments are required to conserve biological diversity.

Suggestions:

Clear guidelines for the division of funds need to be spelled out in the policy to ensure that conservation and sustainable development of our biological resources is the first priority.

"Ultimately the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity will strengthen friendly relations among peoples of the world and contribute to the peace for humankind."

K. KINGDON

Good afternoon. In reviewing the strategy, I found that I could agree with most of the document. I found the stressing of partnerships, ecosystem management, and education heartening. Without working with others to protect large tracts of lands (whomever should own them), our wildlife resources will be diminished. Education is a key.

I would like to suggest that there are several areas that could be improved in the document. The first is that ecosystem management must be found throughout the document, as must the word sustainability. There are sections where these words are implied, but not listed. We must ensure that the concepts are never overlooked. Each sentence that needs such a statement should have it.

There are also several mentions of increasing populations, particularly in policy 2 (in particular 2.6). I assume that these increases are for the benefit of endangered species only, and that such increases would not severely impact other species. However, there is no mention under what conditions such an increase would be proposed. Without clear guidelines, this policy area would be rife for abuse and could create conflict between people. Ecosystem management must be included in any discussion of manipulation of wildlife numbers.

This is also reflected in discussions of wildlife's place within the Provincial forestry, mining and agriculture acts. For example, if the forestry industry insists that they need access to wildlife areas, how does this reflect sustainability from a forestry point of view? In other words, forestry in Manitoba should be sustainable enough that it doesn't need access to cutting in wildlife areas or in provincial parks for that matter. I would strongly support that wildlife be placed above other "industrial" acts such as the ones listed above...much the same way that the Sustainable Development Act has jurisdiction over all other industry acts (e.g., agriculture, forestry, mining). In this way, wildlife concerns would take priority over other uses of the land in cases where there is concern (I am specifically thinking of endangered species).

Other areas of concern include the ability of the citizens to appeal decisions made in conflict resolution (policy area 4). In policy area 4.4, there is a recommendation that the minister will make final decisions in regards to conflicts over the use of wildlife resources and land. The problem is that sometimes the minister is part of the conflict (for example, in the case of people being concerned about elk ranching). Perhaps there needs to be an independent board/adjudicator that deals with these conflicts. This would remove any bias (real or perceived) in cases where the conflict is between citizens and the Province.

I think that education must include Interpretation in provincial parks. As an old interpreter, I feel a certain affinity for these people. They were hard hit in the early years of budget cuts, and we need them back. They help educate a captive audience that wants to understand the concepts of sustainability and ecosystem management.

Partnerships are also key. I have worked with the federal government for the past 10 years. Relations with the province have never been good (although they have been at the field level). Nor has the relationship been very good with this province and many ENGO's. I believe that it is incumbent upon the Manitoba government to reach out to non-traditional allies. With a focus on ecosystem management, corridors, etc., there is a need for working close with others.

Tax reform and putting money into wildlife management is also key. First off, in southern Manitoba, most of the land is privately owned. This means that wildlife species are dependent upon the good will of the people on whose land they find a home. Without some tax reform, however, there will be few incentives for farmers and other landowners to protect land for wildlife. After all, these natural lands are often a problem area to farmers ... whether cutting fields into small chunks or by harbouring wildlife that proceeds to cause depredation problems. Also, conservation officers have been given the impossible task of protecting large areas with few resources. I believe that money raised through hunting licenses, etc., should be directed to the Department of Natural Resources rather than general coffers. We need to give money and resources to those people that need it to ensure that we (all Manitobans) can still enjoy the benefits of wildlife.

Finally, there is a need for the panel and others to recognize that these open houses are not enough. As outlined in the guidelines of SD (page 3), public participation is necessary. Unfortunately, except for a few areas where there are exceptional teachers, today's youth are largely unrepresented in these types of meetings. I encourage you to examine ways that this and other committees gain insight from our youth. Without it, you end up with an act and a strategy that the young people will be saddled with but have had no input in.

All in all, the strategy is well written. I am encouraged by the first policy area. Recognition of critical habitats, movement corridors, etc., give me hope for the future. Areas on planning for the protection of wildlife through public participation and public understanding are also important. Reducing the effects of wildlife damage on those that can least afford it is extremely important.

Good luck on the rest of your tour.

HARRY RINTOUL

Introduction

I am the owner and operator of the Lake Audy General Store (LAGS) in the LGD of Park, located on Lake Audy Road, 2 minutes north of Provincial Trunk Highway (PTH) 354 at the entrance to Riding Mountain National Park. The Lake Audy General Store serves both summer and winter tourists as well as the resident families (70 families within ten miles of the store). We operate the post office and a gas pump. We sell provincial hunting, fishing and trapping licenses as well as licences and passes for Riding Mountain National Park. We are a general Store in the old fashioned meaning of the word. We carry groceries, camping equipment, fishing and hunting supplies, ice and ammunition, animal feeds, mouse traps and anything a customer asks us for. If we can find it, we carry it.

The Lake Audy General Store has been in existence on the same location since the early 1960s. I am the fifth owner. All the previous four owners are still alive and maintain residency either full- or part-time in the area. The Lake Audy Store has been, and remains a vital part of the social and economic fabric of the Lake Audy / Crawford Park and Horod areas.

I purchased the store in May of 1998. Prior to moving to L.A., I lived in Winnipeg where I worked as a freelance writer, playwright and actor. That career enabled me to live and work in other cities and towns across Manitoba and throughout Canada.

I made a definite and informed choice to leave the city and live and work in rural Manitoba.

As stated in the previous presentation, the landscape I live in is very diverse. The populations of wildlife and the diversity of trees and plant species is astounding. I have witnessed flocks of tundra swans flying over my yard, have had bears literally leave their paw prints on our back door. Moose and deer graze in the nearby fields and my garden. Nearby creeks and rivers teem with fish, mink and beaver, loons, coots and muskrat. Waterfowl fly over my business on their annual spring and fall migrations. My slough raised approximately 19 wild ducks last year. I live among rolling hummocks of forest, meadows and marshes and agricultural land.

My wife and I chose to live where we would be near the wildlife in a landscape we love.

I address the issues I raise in this presentation to protect the place where I live, not only for myself and my neighbours, many of whose families homesteaded this area, but for all Manitobans who may travel our way to enjoy the land and wildlife as we do.

Unlike many businesses within RMNP, the LAGS remains open year round. Our major business derives from the summer tourist season beginning the Victoria Day, May long weekend through to Labour Day in September. However, our business remains strong through the archery season in late August, September waterfowl hunting, through the November deer season and into all three elk seasons ending in January. Our winter and late winter business is mainly local residents, ice fisherman, trappers, the occasional hardy park visitors and cross-country skiers.

I have to commend the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Province for their work with landowners and public and private organizations in their efforts to protect and preserve wildlife habitat. While many summer people come to RMNP to see wildlife, they have often told me they have seen more wildlife on their drive to the park than they have actually seen in the park. This is a tribute to the sound land use practices by private landowners in this region. It is quite obvious to me that farmers are good conservationists.

A great deal of our clientele is European. They are often awestruck by the abundance and variety of animals. One Dutch woman could not believe that she had actually seen a beaver. In Holland she had been told that Canadians had trapped the beaver out of existence.

Habitat enhancement and allocation and supply practices as currently implemented will ensure that visitors from Manitoba, Canada and the rest of the world will always witness animals in the wild, in a natural habitat. It will ensure the presence of wildlife, forests and plants which are an integral part of our own personal landscape.

At least thirty per cent of my business income is a result of sales to hunters, fishermen and trappers.

Hunting and fishing have been a part of my life since I was a boy. I was taught to respect animals and to hunt and kill an animal quickly, humanely and efficiently. From the age of 18 to the age of 40, while I lived in Winnipeg, I did not hunt. I now live in an area where hunting is not merely a recreation, but a way to feed my family. It is a major source of income for my business. It is an integral part of the rural lifestyle. We do not trophy hunt. We do not hunt for the sheer joy of killing a living animal. We hunt to put meat in the freezer, feed our families and retain an important connection to the land.

I find it very disturbing in the information age of the Internet, multi-channel television and the electronic highway to be accosted by some who are horrified when they learn that I hunt. I am told there is no need to hunt because I can go to Safeway and buy meat. The nearest Safeway to me is in Dauphin or Neepawa. Both are an hour's drive. As many of my neighbours raise cattle, I know that what I pay for the beef I buy is not what they have been paid to raise the animal.

Hunting where I live is a walk behind the barn out into the bush, a short drive to a nearby field. Of those who come out from other parts of the province to hunt, many have been coming for years. They have built up solid relationships with local people and the money they spend in my store or at the Olha Store has a direct impact on the local economy.

I chose to live in rural Manitoba. I choose to hunt to feed my family.

Many of my neighbours in the past trapped. The income derived from this was substantial. Some of my neighbours still trap, though the income now is miniscule.

The success of the anti-fur lobby and the near death of the trapping industry has decimated many rural and northern communities in this province. It has put many whole communities on welfare and it has removed another link in the rural economic chain. For many in our area, trapping is additional income, and whether you be white or Aboriginal, being able to earn an income and provide for one's family is preferable to any government social assistance program.

Public education and knowledge of the differences between the urban and rural lifestyle is drastically needed. There are vast cultural, social and economic differences living in rural Manitoba.

Small stores like mine and the Olha Store depend on the business of hunters, trappers and fishermen for a major part of our livelihood. The income we derive from these activities is spent in nearby communities, in my own case, Erickson and Sandy Lake and in the larger communities of Brandon and Dauphin. Our tax dollars and the PST we collect goes to Winnipeg.

The Province and DNR have done a wonderful job informing the urban citizenry of the abundance of urban wildlife. They have made the rural parts of this province a target for visitors from across North America and Europe. What we need is more education between the rural and urban groups within the province.

I live and work as a part of a system. It is a social, economic and environmental system that works. It is dependent on resource management, land use, the world price of grain and the weather. Wildlife management and policy as presented by the Province and DNR is the conservation of the rural lifestyle in its entirety: economically, socially and environmentally.

In closing I would add I am in broad agreement with the presentation and approach as presented by the Riding Mountain Landowners Association.

MANITOBA LODGES AND OUTFITTERS MIDWEST MANITOBA PARKLAND REGION
DON McCREA
Referring to Page 26, Policy Area 2.4 From Workbook on Wildlife

This presentation is an outline of the Manitoba Lodges and Outfitters - Midwest Manitoba Parkland Region's concern for sustainable development and wildlife management for our province. It is at the request of the membership of this group and the support businesses that I am here today to speak to your round table on sustainable development.

The Midwest Manitoba Parkland Region has commissioned a social and economic study to determine the impact of the commercial black bear and white-tailed deer hunt in the Parkland Region. Our association wants to support sustainable development and therefore for that, and many other reasons, more than 77 operators and a couple of hundred Parkland businesses have worked together to develop a criteria and mechanism to identify and compile a formal social and economic impact study on the effects of the commercial black bear and white-tailed deer hunt in the Parkland Region.

We've had working meetings where we have developed two comprehensive questionnaires to gather this very valuable information; one questionnaire to be directed to the outfitters, and separate questionnaire to region businesses. Copies of these questionnaires are attached. Our initial response has been very positive. This project is receiving good support by way of participation by everyone involved, a well as a lot of verbal support from the local public at large.

The Wildlife Department, working with lodges and outfitters in Manitoba as well as other user groups, has over the years developed an allocation system that is fast becoming, a model for commercial hunting and game management in Canada. As one of the first black bear outfitters in Manitoba, I've experienced the difficulties of working out a game management policy that has evolved to meet the needs of all concerned parties, i.e., aboriginal groups, resident hunters, etc., such that the surplus of numbers of wildlife are made available for commercial use. I believe the game management policy of the day, although continually evolving based on changes in wildlife herds, is a very sound system. I say this as someone who has been questioned about Manitoba's game

policy on many occasions by Outfitters from across Canada. I continually hear praise for Manitoba's progressive game management policies because they are based on strict game management policies and are working very well to ensure sustainable development for Manitoba.

I would now like to speak on my personal background and you will see how the use of wildlife has been a big part of my life. I will also cover my personal experience in the outfitting business relating to sustainable development.

Four examples of how the commercial use of wildlife has had a positive impact, both socially and economically are:

1. Keystone Air, a small Swan River-based airline has grown over the past decade, and much of that growth is attributable to the hunting business in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.
2. Trapper Don's Lodge promotes and markets the services of local taxidermy businesses in both Swan River and Winnipeg so as many dollars as possible stay in our province as a by-product of the hunting experience.
3. At Trapper Don's Lodge, we retrieve all bear meat from the field. This meat is locally processed and carried to the hunters' homes for human consumption. The use of bear meat is a marketing plus in a great number of states. Bear meat is a tasty meat when processed properly. Trapper Don's Lodge has actually booked hunts as a result of hunters tasting the bear meats in our guests' homes. Deer and Moose - An agreement has been worked out with local food banks and meat-processing plants. The plants have donated their facility and services such that the 1998 deer hunt at Trapper Don's Lodge saw 13 deer donated to local food banks and hence to needy people.
4. A young outfitter has related to me (Don McCrea) how a story about Trophy Black Bear Hunting in Manitoba inspired him to work hard at guiding, so that he could get his own outfitting business which has allowed him to stay in the Parkland, be active in the community and raise a family in the place he calls home. This type of story gives me a sense of pride in our industry and its impact of our rural communities.

Our projection is to have the study completed and summarized by May, 1999 and we will offer your panel the results of this study. We believe, from the initial feedback, this study will prove our present game policy is the proper approach to sustainable development with respect to Manitoba's big game resources.

MANITOBA CATTLE PRODUCERS DISTRICT 5 CARBERRY, MB

CLAIRE DE'ATHE

Solutions

- Maintain crown land for agricultural uses—needed for agriculture.
- Young producers need crown land/PFRA pastures to get established; these lands would be helpful as forage and grazing opportunities.
- Help us find solutions to access predicaments.
- Design a 4-H project re: sustainable development and agriculture. Have senior members present their results to school children and other organizations.
- Invite producers into schools – seminars and natural resources-sponsored events to present our side of the process. We can find speakers and representatives.
- Talk to farmers re: deer, elk and coyote numbers. Many landowners have protected areas and populations not known to the general public, i.e., skinks, burrowing owls.
- Participate/partner with us in research projects. Ask our cooperation, it will be there.
- Help us inform the public that grazers are wildlife's best friends. We provide water that extends grazing ranges. Salt and minerals are shared between cows and their wild neighbours. Forages and crops are enjoyed by deer and elk as well as rodents such as porcupines and water fowl.
- Recognize producers for special projects. Above all, recognize us, not as partners along with various societies and organizations, but as part of the land itself.
- I believe I speak for all producers when I say – I would be more interested in following a conservation-based approach to agriculture if I were involved in planning and subsequent decision-making. Regulations without involvement and co-operation of producers and land owners will be counter productive

MANITOBA CATTLE PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

W. MCFADYEN

On behalf of the 14,000+ cattle producers in Manitoba, the Manitoba Cattle Producers Association is pleased to have the opportunity to address the members of the Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development with respect to the Wildlife Strategy.

The vision of the Manitoba Cattle Producers Association is a sustainable rural landscape that not only provides for producer sustainability, but wildlife and habitat sustainability and the betterment of the quality of life for producers, and all Manitoba citizens.

We feel there are 5 key requirements to accomplishing wildlife sustainability in the agricultural landscape: 1) recognition, 2) consultation, 3) education, 4) the development of partnerships and 5) stewardship at all levels, be it government, producers or the public at large.

We believe governments at all levels, and the general public, need to recognize that private landowners are responsible for large tracts of land, and must make a living on this land, that is home to wildlife and their habitats.

We are the preeminent sustainers of the natural landscape in the agricultural areas of our province. We are familiar with our lands and the wildlife on our lands, their habitat, their movements and their cycles. We are long-term stakeholders and welcome the invitation to work cooperatively with many partners to sustain wildlife and habitat within these areas.

After all, our livelihoods, and quality of life, depend on the sustainability of the landscape, not only for our generation, but those generations to come who will choose to earn their living in the profession of cattle production.

Recognition also needs to be given to those producers who have embarked on numerous projects on their lands, such as moving cattle off riparian areas and the adoption of various "wildlife-friendly" grazing systems. These projects do come at a cost to producers and are done voluntarily with the realization that it is not only for the betterment of their operations, but also for the betterment of the landscape, its flora, fauna and other environmental amenities.

Education is a key component to the success of any program. Through education processes, governments, industry partners, such as ourselves, and the public at large can gain a better understanding of the issues at hand and come to informed conclusions that are of mutual benefit to all parties.

The development of educational modules or tools, be they for use in the education systems (public schools, universities, colleges), or the general public, should also contain components that deal with the role that agriculture plays within the province in relation to wildlife and related habitat sustainability.

As an industry, we are working with numerous partners, such as the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation and Ducks Unlimited, in the development of projects and programs to educate our producers about wildlife habitat management on their lands for the betterment of all parties, thus assuring long-term sustainability.

The MCPA is please to see "consultation," "partnership" and "working cooperatively" mentioned on numerous occasions through out the Workbook On Wildlife and commend the Roundtable on these initiatives. We see them as being crucial cornerstones to a successful wildlife strategy.

It is always to the benefit of all parties concerned to work together in a cooperative manner to reach common goals, objectives and consensus in a democratic method, rather than through legislation.

Besides working with agencies such as MHHC and DU, we are having discussions with staff of the Department of Natural Resources about cooperative activities in various areas, such as controlled grazing programs on Wildlife Management Areas, assisting in deer inventory counts, educating producers in preventative methods of dealing with predation from wildlife, be it bear attacks or depredation by deer or elk, to name but a few.

Understandably, there is great desire for stewardship of wildlife habitat on agricultural lands. However, everyone must recognize that it comes at a cost, be it to the producer or society as a whole. While many producers have moved forward on wildlife habitat enhancement projects, these have been undertaken at their costs or with assistance from outside agencies such as the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation.

Should society wish to see these initiatives develop further, everyone must realize that if the producer's way of life and income are impacted, say through legal mechanisms such as covenants and caveats to protect wildlife corridors, appropriate compensation must be forthcoming for income lost. This compensation could be in the form of cash settlements, tax relief or other mutually agreed-to mechanisms.

Regardless, of the approach, the principle of supporting producers who provide enhanced ecological services to society must be established if we are to have a successful wildlife strategy in the future.

We commend the Roundtable for their vision of a sound environment, healthy populations, and sustainable growth for the province of Manitoba and the work that has been done to date in these areas.

Manitoba's cattle producers would welcome the opportunity to be involved in the process on an ongoing basis, not only at discussions such as this, but in the adoption and implementation of the results of these discussion as they may relate to policy, planning and regulation in the future. We want to do our part to ensure that the concepts coming forward from these discussions, move us toward meaningful wildlife sustainability programs on the land, and do not just become another document.

Our organization's mission statement is "To represent all cattle producers through communication, advocacy, research and education within industry and to government, consumers and others, to improve prosperity and ensure a sustainable future."

Our mission statement conveys similar sentiments as that of the Roundtable. It is the hope of the Manitoba Cattle Producers Association that we can continue working together for the mutual benefit of all parities to ensure a sustainable future for all.

A more comprehensive brief will be forwarded with respect to the Workbook On Wildlife under separate cover. In closing, we would like to express our sincere thanks for being given the opportunity to convey our message for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
Manitoba Cattle Producers Association

MANITOBA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

LLOYD LINTOTT, VICE-PRESIDENT

To maintain a sense of continuity, I will attempt to proceed with this presentation in the same order of policy areas as set out in the Workbook on Wildlife.

Policy Area #1 Environmental Enhancement and Protection

The Manitoba Wildlife Federation urges that any changes to be made in regards to wildlife sustainability must stress the importance of maintaining existing habitat and cooperation with other organizations and levels of government to protect and reclaim wildlife habitat. This may involve something as complex as tax breaks for individual landowners or simple support for municipalities to protect underdeveloped road allowances from agricultural practices which destroy valuable ribbons of habitat. Where economically feasible, every effort should be made to reclaim habitat damaged for whatever reason (i.e., gravel extraction, farming of road allowances). The sale of existing crown lands should be very carefully scrutinized by a combination of organizations before any land is sold. Crown lands are public lands and should remain so. In some areas of the province, especially South West Manitoba, the small parcels of crown land are the only habitat still available for wildlife. The general public should have the right of access to crown land maintained and an education process should be developed for both user groups and lease holders in regards to the right of access for all citizens be it hunters or berry pickers.

Policy Area #2 Allocation and Supply

A sustainable population of wild animals and plants is the most important priority. Resident use of wildlife and plants must continue to maintain a higher priority over non-resident and commercial use. Wild animal population targets should be established through consultation with Aboriginal, non-Aboriginal, and where applicable, non-resident user groups. The most important factor to consider in all allocation and supply management decisions is that all decisions "must" be based on sound biological data. There is no room in game management decisions for the emotional rhetoric so often used by anti-hunting and animal rights organizations (i.e., Ontario Spring Bear).

Policy Area #3 Development and Use

The government should promote resident hunting and trapping as the sound game management tools that they are. The food value that wild game represents to all those who use the resource, be they Native or non-native, must be recognized. The Department of Natural Resources should maintain standards for lodges and outfitters but it should not be their mandate to actively market Manitoba as a tourism destination. Wildlife management areas and crown lands should be protected from use that is not compatible with wildlife sustainability (i.e., over-grazing). Resident license fees must not be such that they are on a cost recovery basis or hunter numbers will decline. The government should be encouraged to recognize and utilize the immense amount of knowledge available through experience and hands-on activities of conservation groups, such as the Manitoba Wildlife Federation.

Policy Area #4 Planning and Integrated Management

Every effort should be made to address and resolve conflicts between competing user groups. Existing partnerships with conservation groups should be enhanced and new ones explored and developed.

Policy Area #5 Urban Development

Methods should be established to protect wild plants and animals in urban settings. This could include donations of private lands, easements, caveats or purchase. Individuals and businesses that donate or protect land for wildlife should be recognized. Population targets for urban wildlife should be established and control methods developed to maintain those targets at levels that do not pose a risk to human health or property damage. Educate urban population on target levels and develop partnerships with municipal jurisdictions to mitigate risks when population targets are surpassed.

Policy Area #6 Public Awareness and Education

Next to habitat protection, this is the most important aspect of wildlife sustainability. The general public must be made aware of the role that licensed hunting plays in providing sustainable wildlife populations and the emphasis should be placed on teaching this to young children. A school curriculum should be developed in this regard using the experience of real people. Existing school curriculums should be monitored to ensure a balanced view is used when teaching wildlife issues. Government support to NGO's efforts to develop educational programs should be increased.

Policy Area #7 Human Health and Property Protection

Educate the public on the health hazards of over-abundant populations of wild animals (i.e., rabies in skunks and racoons). Fair compensation for wildlife damage should continue but only when other avenues have been tried (e.g., hunting, changing agricultural practices, etc.). Encourage and promote respect for the landowner's rights by all user groups – not just the hunting community. Encourage and promote a two-way street attitude between crown land lease holders and the general public. Discourage trespass fees charged by landowners to licensed hunters by maintaining depredation complaints and compensation payouts.

Policy Area #8 Humane Treatment

The government must maintain regulations to prevent the mistreatment of wildlife. Legislation to prohibit the undue harassment of wildlife by all user groups (hunters, bird watchers, etc.) must be maintained. The capture of wild animals for domestication, whether for pets or commercial ventures, should be prohibited.

In concluding this presentation, I would like to touch on a few points that are important and should be emphasized.

A very important point that should be recognized in any sustainable development initiative in regards to wildlife is the role that hunting has in the culture and heritage of all those who hunt. The general public accepts hunting as a part of the culture and heritage of our native people but do not believe it is important to the non-native population. To any person whose grandfather, father, and now family members, have hunted or continue to hunt and depend on wildlife, it is a huge part of our lives and heritage.

One does not have to be an aboriginal to have respect for the use and care of our wild animal populations.

Another issue that the Manitoba Wildlife Federation would like to see addressed and the timing would seem appropriate, is the protection of our hunting privileges from the interference of self-serving groups whose sole purpose is to end hunting at any cost. Hunting is a time-honoured tradition and way of life that plays a role in sustaining wildlife populations and contributes to our societies well-being. If this initiative leads to a new Wildlife Act for the province it would seem appropriate to include such things as a right to hunt clause, anti-harassment protection and the recognition that licensed hunting deserves. Most importantly would be the recognition that only sound biological data be considered in any cancellation of existing or future wildlife consumptive activities.

Respectfully Submitted, Lloyd Lintott

OPASKWAYAK CREE NATION RESOURCE COMMITTEE

THE PAS APRIL 27, 1999

[From notes made by D. Berezanski, except for R. McGillivary presentation, which was supplied text]

Don Lathlin

- OCN Resource Committee works for Opaskwayak Cree Nation; work well with the staff at Natural Resources across the river.
- Do a bunch of things together like sturgeon studies; moose management is one of our greater accomplishments within the area.
- Always a big chore when first nations, the OCN Resource Committee, try and work for something as good as managing moose populations for the benefit of all.
- However, there are some things lacking, like the provincial government have done certain things in the past that excluded us, that have affected us.
- When certain decisions or plans are being made, the people that are affected that live within that land management area should be given full consideration and decision-making for every management activity or any extraction activity or anything of that sort that affects the wildlife.
- It should be that party or that First Nation, to give an example, who lives in that area, should be given high priority, and what needs to be done in the area or what should be done in the area to satisfy the populations.

Don Head

- Welcome everybody that came out to this Manitoba Round Table discussion on wildlife.
- Work with Swampy Cree Tribal Council also.
- All of Canada is under treaty; have mentioned this before during the wildlife discussion on fish; all of Manitoba is under treaty territory. [Map of Treaty areas put on overhead]
- These treaties were signed beginning in 1871, 1873, 1874, 1875. Treaty 5 was signed in 1908 to 1910; this was long before the province of Manitoba was created.
- The province of Manitoba was established as a small postage-stamp province in 1870.
- The original boundaries were extended in 1885 to run the 53rd Parallel or just south of The Pas; in 1912, the province was extended up to the 60th Parallel.
- During this time, Manitoba didn't have jurisdiction over the resources; that was until the 1930 NRTA ; the treaties were assigned before the 1930 NRTA.
- All the treaty boundaries are clearly established; all the lakes and rivers are the same, they're all under treaties.
- The lakes and rivers haven't really changed since the province was established, just the fluctuations of the water levels were decreasing and increasing.
- The only big change in the province is Cedar Lake, used to be just a small little lake until the dams went up and created a big flood plain.

Don Lathlin

- The province of Manitoba was just a postage-stamp province at the bottom, but it grew as it went along; sustainable development slide show stated that the province was never given management of all natural resources in 1870.
- The treaties were there before the full creation of the province of Manitoba.

Robert McGillivary

[Referencing to Overhead Map, made for the purpose of identifying OCN Traditional Boundaries]

Good evening. I, too, would like to welcome you all to our community this evening. As you saw that map from our last presenter of the Manitoba Treaty Boundaries, our traditional hunting territory lies within one of those boundaries, our ancestors have used the area for hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering long before 1930, and we still continue to do so day.

About five years ago our Elders identified where the boundaries are, and unfortunately we cannot change the lines because many of them have passed on. We do not exclusively use our traditional area ourselves. We share the land for sustenance with our First Nation neighbours: to the west Red Earth, Shoal Lake and Cumberland House Saskatchewan; to the east Mosakahiken and southeast Chemawawin. And recently with lodge owners with the help of Provincial Permit Systems.

My presentation will not be as rosy as we have seen on the slides. But we want to make an awareness of what is happening in our traditional lands. We have to do this because no one is going to do that for us, especially if

OCN acquires Crown Land through TLE land selections. DNR will not monitor the land, it will be considered privately owned by a First Nation. We will have to do that ourselves.

[References to Video] This area is well within our traditional hunting territory. Certainly we are concerned what happens there. If we are talking about sustainable development, we are going to have to look at all the issues that have to do with natural resources. OCN Resource Committee Member found this moose carcass at the Clearwater Lake dumps. This was video-taped on August 10, 1997. Someone took the antlers and dumped the animal there. Other carcasses have been found with only the front quarters and hind quarters taken.

The video that will be coming up is the minnows.

[Response to a question] That's not the only site we've noticed. Some have been found up or down the river. We know which ones are road kills. The moose in the video is a year's food supply for someone.

Another area we are going show you is the Second Reader Lake: one trapper said "You better come and see this." I went there with my camera. This is a water control gate. This was in November when the water was starting to freeze. The minnows were supposed to be migrating to the river. Instead they are trapped, they can't go anywhere, they die there. They are frozen on to ice. We broke and lifted one chunk of ice and there were lots of minnows frozen to the ice. (Response to question]... This is Second Reader Lake but I imagine that the other control gates are the same.

Our concern is the control structures. There should be something done to help the minnows and other fish species get to their migrating destination.

What we are saying is if DU gets a permit to built water control structures, then they should held responsible for the fish species to go through their structures without hindrance.

Another thing that happens when water is held back for a long time is it stagnates. And is not fit for muskrat and other species. [Response to a question] This creek must freeze to the bottom, it's only about two-and-a-half to three feet of water there. [Video] That's only one escape. In some cases the trappers are fishermen. The trappers gave evidence of full-grown fish among the minnows. The minnows were identified as pike and walleye, not stickle backs as someone mentioned.

[Question] Is there anything being done to find out if it has any negative impact on the aquatic species and the muskrat and stuff like that? DNR was supposed to have analyzed the water at one time; whether that was done or not we don't know. What I heard from an Elder was, the water control structures were supposed to improve the habitat for the ducks and other waterfowl. He said they worked for a little while (about 10 years) but after that they are not doing what they were designed to do.

[Overhead map of DU Water Control Structures] All these little circles are water control structures. They are all over the place, along the Carrot River, Birch River and the Saskatchewan River.

For years, we have been asking Ducks Unlimited and the Department to do something about the water levels and the water control structures. Trappers have a hard time in the spring time due to frozen muskrat houses caused by water fluctuations. There is a lot of fish and water held back along these tributaries. And to top it off, there are two hydroelectric dams on both sides of the Saskatchewan River. The fishing biologist is trying to convince us that we are over-harvesting. I don't believe that, because the water is not the way it once was and the fish habitat has been destroyed. At one time the water was fast, today the water is slow and it's because of the hydroelectric dams and Ducks Unlimited water control gates. I fail to see fish to be abundant when their habitat is ruined.

Last year when there was a lot of water in Alberta, I asked a fisherman how was fishing down river? He said he noticed a rise in sturgeon and other fish species when the water was released through the spillways at the hydroelectric dams in Saskatchewan.

What I'm trying to say is governments have to be careful on how they administer the water licences. It's very hard to absorb, when we are told we are over-harvesting when the Departments know that the waters are blocked off from entering the river. Thank you.

Gilbert Lathlin

- It's pretty hard to do what we're doing here without funds.
- With the little amount we get from Opaskwayak Cree Nation, we've managed to do a lot towards research.
- Back in '85, we signed an agreement with the province along with five, six other communities to co-manage Area 8 just east of our community.

- The reason why we signed this agreement was because there was a big decline in the moose species from a thousand to two-forty.
- So we decided to do something about it and we signed a co-management agreement with the province and it turned out really good.
- We shut it down voluntarily by treaty, and in five years, the population went up to back to about a thousand.
- If we work together, we can achieve anything but we need cooperation also and, as Don said, we need funding also.
- With the presentation that was made here tonight, we can impose on people and ask for a little bit of funding; when we get a little bit…we can do some more.

Don Lathlin

- If the province is going to be doing things, like approving mega-projects that will affect traditional territory, in the past we haven't been given any consideration.
- When you give one-fifth of the province away to Tolko over there, to cut trees, there was no consultation given to us.
- There should be more consultation, there should be more decision-making powers given to the people that live the area, there should be consideration given the traditional ecological knowledge of First Nations elders.
- You guys are asking where do the fish come from, and our trappers and fishermen told us where these fish come from.
- We're not out there all the time ourselves, so we rely on our community members, the fishermen, the elders, and the hunters and gatherers themselves to provide us with this.
- As Gilbert said, it takes money to do these things and we work well with Natural Resources and hope to continue doing that.
- But, there has to be some equality, equality in decision-making, consultation, funds if we're to keep working together as partners in the management of these resources.
- It has to be taken into consideration that it takes funds to do that.
- Tape of the Bracken Dam area— Gilbert said that there is a perpetuating need for Ducks Unlimited to block waters.
- Just last year, they did some major renovation work at Bracken Dam at the mouth of the Carrot and where all of the three rivers meet.
- They have an earth dam that blocked off Birch River; major, major, project when you think about environmental concerns.
- They didn't have to apply for environmental improvement, environmental license or have to go through an environmental review process.
- They just use their perpetual license to keep damming; we're the best dam province in Canada right now.
- Something must have happened to something there— if you block off a whole river there with mud and then release it into two other rivers; there's no study done.

PARKLAND MEWS FALCONRY AND BIRD OF PREY EDUCATION CENTRE

ROB WHEELDON

This hearing is about sustainable development with particular reference to a wildlife strategy. The framework is based upon existing policy, the Wildlife Act and proposed changes through public consultation. This presentation deals within the aforementioned context, the issue of falconry and the Peregrine Falcon in Manitoba.

The stated definition of sustainable development is "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." Falconry is an asset to this province in terms of wildlife recreation, conservation, education, research and if utilized fully, rehabilitation. But more specifically, falconry is an even bigger asset, a potential to be realized, for ensuring the future of the Peregrine Falcon.

The Peregrine Falcon was here at least as a migratory species, long before Manitoba came into existence as a province. Falcons would migrate up the central fly-way to their breeding grounds in the north and continue the rite of passage south again in the fall. Yet there is no conclusive evidence, despite colonization by humans, that the Peregrine was or was not a breeding species within the province. A clutch of three indeterminate eggs is the sole fragile and speculative source of origin that in times past a pair of Peregrines may or may not have attempted to nest in this jurisdiction. In 1991 the Peregrine Falcon was listed as a Manitoba endangered species. The Manitoba Endangered Species Advisory Committee includes migrant species in their mandate as well, e.g., Pronghorn Antelope and Curlews.

People familiar with the Peregrine story understand the demise of the species came about through the problem of DDT in North America and the resulting egg shell thinning. The problematic DDT was duly banned and in Manitoba manmade introductions of Peregrines were initiated in the artificial setting of an urban environment. It is important to note that the Peregrine Fund protocol was to first reintroduce the bird into known historical sites and then as a back-up choose model sites in the wild. City releases were never a priority and were seen only as a supplement to priority sites. They recognized a questionable PR value given the high risk of injury and death from the inherent dangers of an urban environment.

The 3,000-year-old relationship between Peregrines and falconers reached a new peak when a group of falconers met in Madison, Wisconsin to discuss the decline of the species and proactively work towards a solution. This was achieved in no small measure through the advancement of captive breeding techniques. As a result the Peregrine Falcon is now being recommended for delisting in the United States due to population estimates being higher than pre-DDT levels.

Thus the contribution of falconers toward preserving the Peregrine Falcon is well-documented. In jurisdictions where the Peregrine is endangered, falconers are called upon to assist in a variety of ways and the birds are available for falconry, including captive breeding.

Falconry in Manitoba was permitted as early as the mid-1970s but was formally regulated in 1998 after a 4-year effort to bring Manitoba in line with other Canadian and USA wildlife jurisdictions. After rigorous biological scrutiny the impact of falconry on both predatory and game bird populations was determined to have no negative effect. Through this exercise it became apparent that the introduction of falconry would indeed result in a partnership between the province and individuals to help make Manitoba the best place to live.

The process involving policy-making and regulation is now no longer dissimilar to that of changing the act. Indeed the new falconry regulations are now in place after going before cabinet committees. With the Wildlife Act coming up for review and given the process that falconry has undergone it is imperative that some wording be included in the new Act that enshrines this activity in law for future Manitobans to enjoy. This is especially true when considering the current wildlife policy that states under the index number PO/10101 the following:

1. The wildlife resource, as a crown resource, will be employed in the manner which contributes the most benefit to the citizens of Manitoba;
2. The role of government will be restricted to these things which can be achieved only through government;
3. Wildlife legislation will reflect the minimum infringement of individual freedom of choice.

And furthermore, wildlife policy as stated under index number PO/10102 reads:

4. The government will provide a variety of types and amounts of hunting opportunities for the recreational benefit and enjoyment of Manitobans, to be consistent with and in the context of the Outdoor Recreation Policy Directive No. PO/04/01 and program.
5. The government recognizes recreational hunting as a legitimate activity from both an outdoor recreational and ecological perspective.

Endangered species warrant a recovery plan that includes a shelf life. Sadly the Manitoba art limits assistance to an endangered species like the Peregrine to being held in captivity for scientific purposes only. Even the Minister's hands are tied. This is a huge stumbling block in the way of the Peregrine Falcon recovery here in Manitoba. The act as it is currently being applied is limiting the means by which an endangered species can be turned around as it has been in other jurisdiction in North America. An opportunity exists, indeed almost a responsibility, as identified in point number 2 of the above-mentioned policy, to add Peregrine Falcons to the expertise of falconers. These birds can be bred and released to augment existing populations. This will be consistent with the policy adopted by other jurisdictions. In summary, the three changes being proposed are:

A. Enshrine falconry as an activity in the statutes covered by the Manitoba Wildlife Act.

B. Make the Peregrine Falcon available for the falconry fraternity in Manitoba.

C. Utilize the falconry expertise in the area of captive breeding and release to remove the Peregrine Falcon from the Endangered Species Act in Manitoba.

These three proposed changes are consistent with the department's own policy points outlined above and indeed would be an accurate reflection of stated policy intent.

Finally, earlier reference was made to the definition of sustainable development. Here is a case of recognizing the very definition of sustainable development as it pertains to the Peregrine Falcon and falconry. Falconry is an activity that can harvest a species, hunt with it in accordance to its own natural desires and propagate it in a manner that will guarantee its future for forthcoming generations.

THE RIDING MOUNTAIN LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION

BOB SOPUCK

Introduction

This presentation is on behalf of the Riding Mountain Landowners Association (RMLA). We are a group of over 50 landowners south of Riding Mountain National Park (RMNP) who collectively own over 50,000 acres of land. The RMLA was formed in the early 1990s out of concern regarding the proposal put forth by RMNP that a buffer zone be implemented around the national park. Essentially, all of the land around RMNP is privately owned. While the RMNP proposal was not detailed, it was of great concern to landowners in the area since it appeared to threaten the very concept of landowner's rights. The protection of the rights of private landowners is central to the RMLA. Indeed, members are exceedingly passionate about this issue and view the right to own, use, and enjoy private property as a fundamental human right. Many of our members are long-term residents and represent many generations of pioneers who settled in this area. This area is our home and the RMLA has been established to protect and conserve this heritage. To date the RMLA has had marked success in its work and is represented on the Riding Mountain National Park Round Table.

The landscape in the area represented by the RMLA is very diverse. There are numerous lakes, marshes, wetlands, and grasslands. Much of the land is forested. Wildlife is abundant and diverse with over 300 vertebrate species, summer residents and hundreds of plant species. In fact, nearly all of Manitoba's wildlife species are represented on our farms with the exception of species found in arctic regions. By and large wildlife populations are all increasing. Evidence of this are the record counts of elk and moose in RMNP and the surrounding regions this winter. Increasing numbers of moose have taken up permanent residence on private lands outside RMNP. Canada geese populations are increasing dramatically and white-tailed deer numbers are also high.

In addition to the protection of landowners' rights, the RMLA has a strong conservation mandate. An assessment was carried out regarding the amount of wildlife habitat on the land holdings of association members and showed that between 30% and 50% of each member's land was wildlife habitat. Add in the fact that most of the farms are small and very diversified (grains, forages,

pasture, cattle) and the results are thriving wildlife populations. Land use on members' lands spans the spectrum from cultivated grains, to forages, to mixed aspen-coniferous forests, to grassland, and to rare habitats such as rough fescue prairie. The thriving wildlife-based businesses in this area prove that this is a prime wildlife area.

The above introduction serves as the context for the comments by the RMLA on the "Workbook on Wildlife." It must be noted that the RMLA appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed strategy and commends the Manitoba Round Table and the Manitoba Government for this process.

Private Land Wildlife Issues

Given the fact that the RMLA represents private landowners it becomes important to examine private land wildlife issues. Or, why does it matter to wildlife if land is privately owned? The land south of RMNP (and indeed most agricultural landscapes) produces public goods, private goods and goods with both public and private qualities. Public goods are an attractive landscape, wildlife, and water management, while private goods are the crops and livestock sold from farms. Countryside tourism captures private "rent" from public goods while goods such as wheat have a private (profit) component and a public (balance-of-payments, raw material supply) component.

The owners of farm properties have a mixture of complete, partial and non-existent property rights. They own the soil but not the deer, they own the wetland bottom but not the water, they own the surface rights but not the mineral rights. The specific mix of property rights varies across Canada but the principle remains the same. Because of this, the landowner has every incentive (some used to be provided by government) to convert the public resources for which they receive no benefit to private resources that "pay their own way." The public goods belong to everyone and hence to no one and cannot be bought or sold and are often replaced by private goods. Thus wetlands are drained to make way for crops and wildlife losses. It is this private-public conflict that is played out every day on private farms in Manitoba. It is no coincidence that the State of the Environment Report for 1991 concluded that a disproportionate number of threatened and endangered species inhabit the prairie ecozone.

That this has happened is a direct result of policy failure. The policy failure is that we have yet to establish a comprehensive system of market incentives that will encourage the conservation of wildlife habitat on private land. The current system of having wildlife be a "public resource produced at private expense" is not working. Like all business people, farmers strive to reduce costs and thus the cost of carrying habitat is replaced by the profit of growing crops on that former habitat land. One need only drive to the countryside to see that this conversion is happening everywhere.

This point leads to the second point which is that landowners in general and the RMLA in particular will not accept the regulatory approach to private land habitat conservation. To mandate that private landowners bear the cost of supporting the public wildlife is a form of confiscation of private property without compensation. An earlier version of the proposed Canada Endangered Species Protection Act (CESPA) would have done just that. Thankfully, a coalition of resource and agricultural interests showed the Government of Canada the problems inherent in this approach and appropriate modifications were made. A specific local issue is the "no bear baiting" 50 m buffer zone around RMNP. Even though few members hunt bears, this regulation on private land use was imposed on landowners without consultation and it is viewed locally as the "thin-edge-of-the-wedge" and as a precedent for further regulations. The development of both policy and monetary incentives to conserve habitat on private land is required. The experience of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, whereby landowners are provided with incentives to conserve habitat, has been extremely positive. Habitat is being conserved all across Manitoba with this approach. As well, assisting farmers in the adoption of new technologies has also been successful especially in the area of grazing management in riparian areas. The bottom line is that while habitat incentives work, habitat regulations that regulate private use of land are unacceptable to the RMLA.

One issue of concern to the RMLA is the effect of property taxes on private land habitat conservation. If the public values our wildlife so much, why do property taxes on wildlife lands keep going up? The current property assessment process must be changed so that instead of property taxes always increasing on "conservation land" they should be decreasing. We would recommend that the Government of Manitoba look at this issue with a view to reducing the property tax burden on "conservation lands" on private land holdings.

Rural versus Urban Issues

Important issues for the RMLA are the differences in environmental and cultural attitudes between rural and urban residents. The RMLA is, obviously, a rural organization but we often feel that policy initiatives are directed from the city. If past experience is any indication, the overwhelming tendency is for urban-based interests to promote regulation and increased bureaucracy as the means to preserve wildlife habitat. This was exemplified by the attempt to enshrine the regulation of private land use in the proposed CESPA. These types of measures cause real hardship in rural communities. The rural economy, especially the farm economy, is based on commodities whereas the urban economy is based on services. A commodity economy is already subject to stiff global price competition and steadily declining prices and is unable to deal with more pressure. In the case of the imposition of environmental regulations on the rural economy, an author noted:

"For a community that remains dependant on primary product, higher environmental costs of production and declining real product prices associated with environmental restrictions spell economic degeneration. These communities bear the full burden of the demand for environmental preservation."

Because the rural economy is commodity-based, rural residents are by and large comfortable with resource use. Rural residents see trees being cut, ground plowed, grain being combined, wildlife being harvested, or cattle grazing on a daily basis. Thus resource use is "built in" to the view of rural residents and conservation relates to wise use, by and large. Therefore our concept of environmental stewardship is where landowners use the land and the products of the land while ensuring that resources are conserved for future generations. We use wildlife habitat and wildlife and we look after it. That is stewardship. Indeed some land use practices enhance the ability of some wildlife species to survive. The endangered burrowing owl is an example. This species prefers heavily grazed areas so, in this case, the usual prescription for species preservation i.e., no use of the land at all, would actually eliminate the burrowing owls. Other examples are the preference of ruffed grouse for young, previously logged forests, moose utilization of recent cutovers, and the high use of pastures by white-tailed deer. This stewardship perspective seems to be missing in environmental issues these days given the overwhelming dominance of urban media. This must be reversed if wildlife is to be conserved.

Rural residents and especially landowners need to be represented in policy debates. This problem was summarized in a paper as follows:

"The perspectives of the rural populations are missing in our concept of conservation. Many environmental education programs are strongly biased towards elitist urban perceptions of the environment and issues of the urban world. This approach is incomplete and insufficient to deal with the complex context of conservation efforts at home and abroad. It neglects the perceptions and experience of the rural population, the people most closely linked to the land, who have a firsthand understanding of their surrounding natural environment as a teacher and a provider. It neglects those who are most directly affected by the current policy decisions made in urban settings regarding natural resource use. It neglects those who feed us."

This problem was exemplified in a recent Winnipeg radio talk show on the spring bear hunt when a member of the Toronto-based Animal Alliance stated that her group "...speaks for the animals." The arrogance of such a statement is breathtaking. She may claim to "speak for the animals" but the members of the RMLA actually live with them. Urban-based animal rights extremists are always trying to eliminate the livelihoods and lifestyles of rural people but never once do they try to help those who live on the land. In fact the community devastation they have caused by their anti-fur campaigns is serious. Destroyed cultures and devastated rural communities are their legacy.

We would like to make a short comment on the spring bear hunt issue even though this brief deals with all wildlife. In earlier times bears were extremely bold and caused no end of trouble for farmers based on the recollections of long-term residents. RMLA members feel that the current bear-hunting seasons are important tools for controlling bear numbers. Without this control members feel that bears will become a real problem for local people. Currently, bear control is now done at little cost to the taxpayer and contributes to the local economy: a win/win/win situation. The principle of wildlife management through hunting applies to other species as well. Hunting and trapping are important wildlife management tools and should continue to be used where appropriate.

Hunting and Wildlife Management

The RMLA is not a hunting organization per se. In fact some members do not hunt nor do they allow hunting on their land. As an organization devoted to landowner's rights, the RMLA supports those decisions. Nevertheless, the majority of members hunt and/or allow hunting on their lands. As well, with beavers being such a problem in the area, the RMLA members support control of that species through trapping.

Wildlife has been an important food and cultural resource in this area for many years. Indeed the fall hunting season is an important time in our region when many members harvest big game and game birds. Hunting and the subsequent processing and preparation of game remains an important family activity. The actual hunt itself is usually a cooperative effort much enjoyed by all. After the hunt, and after the stories, the game is processed and put away for the winter to be enjoyed throughout the year. Thus the connection to the land, the family, and the community is maintained.

In terms of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and their management of wildlife, the RMLA is basically in agreement with the allocation of wildlife and the hunting seasons. This is a good opportunity to commend DNR for the current landowner elk/moose seasons. This season is greatly appreciated by members and is one of those incentives described above that make it even better to have wildlife on your land. This special season is an acknowledgement of the contribution made by landowners in their support of wildlife habitat.

We would also note that it is important that the provision of hunting and trapping opportunities for those Manitobans who chose to hunt or trap continue to be a mandate of DNR. Not only are hunting and trapping important wildlife management tools, they are an important part of our way of life and must be preserved.

One of the biggest wildlife issues in this region is wildlife depredation. This could be beavers plugging up culverts or drains, elk eating hay, moose destroying fences, or bears destroying grain bins. It must be noted that these are the public's wildlife and it is only right for the public to support the prevention of depredation through the Natural Resources Officers. The RMLA strongly supports the concept of 100% compensation for wildlife damage. As well, we support the provision of adequate resources, both in terms of staff and equipment, for DNR so those wildlife depredation prevention programs can quickly respond to specific problems as they arise.

Comments on Specific Policy Areas

Attached to this presentation are the specific responses by the RMLA to the questionnaire but this section of the brief will make some general comments on each policy area.

Environmental Enhancement and Protection

There is little emphasis in this section on private land. This section treats all land the same and does not address the important distinctions between public and private land. This section needs to be changed significantly to address this issue. We would recommend that this section be completely reworked to take into account the especial case of private wildlife land. We would recommend that the ideas presented above be used to revise this section. As well, policies that promote incentives for private land conservation should take strong precedence over any notions of command-and-control on private land. The endangered species provisions must not be used to regulate private land use. Incentives must be the rule.

Allocation and Supply

This section is appropriate but the fact that it is private land stewardship that makes the allocation of wildlife even possible (in the private land zone of Manitoba) is not acknowledged. We recommend that mechanisms be found to ensure that landowners are provided with incentives to conserve wildlife. The landowner elk/moose seasons in this area are one example. Others like this should be considered.

In terms of population data collection systems we support the need for population surveys to determine harvest levels. However, it is important not to allow this to go too far. Some species such as ruffed grouse have populations that rise and fall independent of hunter harvest while other species such as elk requires careful monitoring. DNR should use its scarce resources wisely and not get sidetracked into studies that are of little use.

Development and Use

The RMLA largely supports this approach with the provision that the landowners who provide the habitat that allows for the "development and use" of wildlife are given some special consideration. An example of this is the current policy of holding back a certain number of non-resident white-tailed deer tags for landowners who wish to be guides. This type of policy is appropriate and should be expanded.

Planning and Integrated Management

This approach is broadly supported except that the role of private landowners and private habitat must be emphasized more. Farmers, ranchers, private landowners, and their organizations must be involved in "planning and integrated management."

Urban Development

The RMLA has no wish to interfere with wildlife concerns in cities. We do not live there and hence do not feel it is appropriate for us to comment.

Public Awareness and Education

The RMLA broadly supports this policy area. In terms of education, the RMLA would like to see recognition programs for private land stewardship be enhanced so that the public at large can begin to appreciate the role of the private landowner. Indeed the current president of the RMA, Mr. Maurice Ewasiuk and his wife Helen, were honoured last year by the Manitoba Minister of Natural Resources for their contribution to wildlife habitat conservation. More of this should be done.

Human Health and Property Protection

We broadly support this policy area. Wildlife damage compensation should be 100% and depredation prevention programs need to be effective.

Humane Treatment of Animals

The RMLA strongly supports this policy area in its entirety.

Legislation and Administration: Wildlife Act Review

The RMLA broadly supports the approach taken in this section.

Conclusion

The Riding Mountain Landowners Association appreciates the opportunity to participate in this process. It is only through efforts such as these that a better understanding will be obtained by all stakeholders. We look forward to receiving the results of this process.

ST. THERESA POINT FIRST NATION
COUNCILLOR ALEX FLETT

PHILOSOPHY

The Creator put us on this land and provided us with all resources for our existence. We were given self-determination to utilize, govern, and protect those resources for ourselves and for future generations of our people. Therefore, we have the inherent right to the resources in our territory.

TREATY - AUGUST 1909

We made a sacred agreement with the Crown that we would share in the benefits of our resources that were given to us by the Creator. This treaty has not been fully implemented.

NATURAL RESOURCES
TRANSFER AGREEMENT 1930

Without the consent of our First Nation, the Federal Crown entered into an Agreement with Manitoba to transfer control and management of our lands and resources. On this matter, there are outstanding issues that needs resolution between St. Theresa Point First Nation and Federal Crown.

ST. THERESA POINT FIRST NATION
POSITION ON THE AB0VE:

1. We maintain and protect our inherent rights to our lands and resources
2. We never extinguished our rights to lands and resources in our Treaty, but we want to develop the sharing concept.
3. There are outstanding issues pertaining to the NRTA
4. St. Theresa Point is pro-development of our resources
5. We want to develop a protocol/working partnership with Manitoba for the purpose of jointly developing our resources that will benefit our people in terms of planning, decision-making, employment, management and sustainable development of those resources.

PROCESS

In St. Theresa Point, planning has already been implemented to encompass the issues that are being discussed here. In our analysis, time is of the essence, as we begin to witness the gradual ecological deterioration of natural habitat of wildlife, fish, plants, insects, etc. It is imperative that the community has adequate but reasonable time to complete the plan.

The plan will deal with fish and wildlife in its entirety. Natural habitats will be carefully considered, as to identify the endangerment, preservation, and rehabilitation of areas. Harvesting, based on culturally appropriate methods, is the key area to be considered. This plan will require the development of a working partnership with the province,

In conclusion, with the establishment of partnership, meaningful support of the project is essential from both parties. Further, it is imperative that the panel fully recognizes and understands the plan and that the time element is recognized as a crucial factor in this endeavour.

THE ORGANIZATION,

A PROVINCIAL COALITION FOR RESPONSIBLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

PHYLLIS ABBE

The concept of "sustainable development" as it relates to wildlife seems to suggest that wildlife in the province could be managed in such a way as to utilize the resource in the present without depleting the resource for future generations. If this were the intent of the Act, and the subject of this consultation, then the immediate and most obvious threat to the wildlife sustainability comes from the present Progressive Conservative government's agricultural policy, both in animal husbandry and crop production.

If, as proposed, hog production reaches eight million by the year 2002, the pig industry will be pumping up 56 million gallons per day of the province's water supply, contaminating it with pig manure, storing it in open ponds or lagoons to be broadcast over thousands of acres of farmland every spring and fall when wildlife is on the move. Hog slurry is contaminated with bacteria, viruses and parasites, and with hormones, antibiotics, and carcinogenic drugs. There is a new virus causing a disease like AIDs in pigs. Sheep grazing on pasture contaminated with hog slurry become diseased from the copper in hog manure. The ever increasing uptake of water will deplete the sources of potable water, while the leaching and runoff of pig industry waste will increasingly contaminate surface water and eventually the aquifers upon which we depend. Some wells are already poisoned, resulting in health problems. Hogs are susceptible to 90-100 diseases and can pass 150 diseases to man. Wildlife is not immune. On the crop side, with the government contributing a million dollars to the Monsanto research centre, wildlife, plant and animal, is at risk from the unknown consequences of genetic engineering, which causes the sterilization of seeds and the spread of disease over species. In a report from Montana, abnormalities in deer and the complete disappearance of young of most species of small mammals and many species of birds, are linked to pesticides carried on the wind from other states.

Even the Department of Environment is not environmentally friendly. Concerned citizens were denied a Clean Environment Commission hearing regarding the hog processing plant in Brandon, which will discharge its effluent into the Assiniboine River. For a period of time in November 1998, when the Brandon sewage treatment plant was being upgraded, the waste from a city of 40,000 was being discharged, untreated, into the river. The plant is again in operation, but the situation is not much better. The effluent from the plant should be treated with an ultraviolet disinfection unit before being discharged. Instead, the effluent is being contaminated by being passed through the lagoon system. This is not good news for communities downstream, dependent on the Assiniboine for drinking water and irrigation, or for the wildlife, as the following paragraph from a report to the Long Plain First Nation shows:

"A representative from Long Plain gave us an understanding about the Native History and their water rights. He also pointed out the dangers to wildlife, not just fish, but animals that live and propagate in the oxbows or little lakes in the bends of the Assiniboine river. In normal and low flows, these small lakes do not get replenished by the river but depend on riverbank spring runoff and rain. But during high water, especially in spring, these little lakes get filled by polluted river water. While high and fast-flowing water helps to flush most of the pollutants downstream into the Red River, and eventually into Lake Winnipeg, this highly polluted water, once trapped in these oxbows, stays there and kills the inhabitants. In spring, runoff can also put fertilizer, hog manure, and the untreated effluents from human waste lagoons into the river and its oxbows. The fact that the hog industry is allowed to dump their hog manure on frozen and snow-covered lands is financially rewarding for the hog industry, but it is pollution and combined with the effluent from the plant, could be construed as being an unknown form of genocide for the Long Plain and other First Nation people in Manitoba."

The Filmon vision of a central kill floor is being realized by the construction of the Maple Leaf slaughterhouse, the consequences of which are the subject of an epic poem. I would like to refer to some relevant lines which mention Reg, Mayor of Brandon, Ron Dalmyn, founder of The ORGANIZATION, and Dr. Bill Paton of the University of Brandon, in the passage entitled "From Proud Wheat City to Carnage Capital of Manitoba":

As in tragedy, a fatal flaw
Would come to lodge in Reg's craw.
Ron and Bill with faithful scribe
Would the sewage plant describe
Show testing points and disinfection
Had not appeared since its conception.
Officials, province, fed, and city,
Showed no remorse or even pity
For the folk downstream from Brandon
Whom to the plague they would abandon.
Now citizens are up in arms
Thinking of potential harms
From the house of death and slaughter
Hope the worker's not your daughter.
And the mega barns' prolific
Hog manure's not terrific
When it pollutes the stream and lake.
Please don't drink it, for God's sake.
Now wheat is out and hogs are in
To challenge progress is a sin.
With slaughterhouse you value add
And Maple Leaf becomes a fad.
As Environment Minister Jim MacCrae
On hog contaminants had nothing to say.
By keeping mum he gave his blessing
To manure's pollution he's not confessing.
And Larry Strachan is full of approval
But some of us would like his removal.
'Though hundreds of citizens signed a petition
Larry says no to the Clean Environment Commission.
McCain promotes hogs where there's muck there is money
(Pathogens, drugs, phosphates aren't so funny.)
Now he'll rake in a profit from his slaughterhouse
Sit tight, not a word, be still as a mouse.
He knew Ted the Snure, Brandon Son of the sewer
Had not a clue when it came to manure.
Effluent testing and UV disinfection
To him were mere frills and a sugary confection.
He was comfortable that Strachan
Would approve of his plan
For the slaughterhouse sewage facility
McCain's only expense affability.
As this little drama is underway
There's not much more than I can say.
In this business, it's do or die,
And someone's potato is going to fry
With a little tincture of E. coli.

If the wildlife consultation process were associated with a sincere attempt to preserve and conserve the natural world, these sessions would have a broader appeal; stakeholders are, after all, the people who profit from the commercialization of wildlife. Sustainable development is perceived as a contradiction in terms, "development" being associated with commercialization, with profit taking and making. This intrinsic ambiguity breeds distrust. The fact that the word "development" in the Sustainable Development Act is defined as "exploitation," a meaning the English word "development" has never carried, reveals the true nature of the Act, namely "sustainable exploitation." Those of us who identify with the natural world will not be a party to such treachery.

TREATY 1 FIRST NATIONS

Morris Merrick

We begin by greeting everyone here. You are our neighbours, our friends, and we wish you good health and peace of mind.

My message to you and to the provincial government is endorsed by chiefs, councilors and people of Treaty One First Nations. To show their support, I am joined here today by councilors and other representatives of Treaty One First Nations. Many of the people here rely upon the natural resources of our Treaty territory as did our parents and their parents before them.

The first thing I must make clear is that we are not here to be consulted about the management of something which is ours. If I agree to be consulted along with the other interests groups who are being consulted, I am admitting my rights are the same as your rights.

The fact is, our rights are very different. We are here today to protect our rights, not to be consulted.

We are as much the owners of the resources within Treaty One's boundaries as we were the day before Treaty One was signed in August 1871. No one has a greater interest than we do in the good health of these resources as do the First Nations. We are an integral part of this land, related to every creature, every plant, children of the earth.

This was our home before the Treaty was signed. It is the only homeland we have. It will be our home long after most people now living in the Territory have moved elsewhere. We were given special responsibilities by the Creator to take care of this land, and in turn, this land would take care of us.

It is very difficult for us to exercise our stewardship, however, when our attention must be focused on protecting our rights. Our rights to our resources existed before Treaty was signed. They were not surrendered in the Treaty. In fact, our rights are acknowledged in the Treaty.

I want it entered on the record, therefore, that my participation is in no way to be characterized ever as "consultation." We are not just another "stakeholder," another interest group. We have title to this land. We were here long before Canada. When we were asked by Queen Victoria to allow peaceful immigration and settlement of her people on our lands, we agreed by Treaty to do so. We could just as easily entered into a Treaty with the Americans had we wished.

Anyone was welcome to come here with their families to live, to prosper. You are the principal beneficiaries of our Treaty. At no time did we give up our title to the land. Still today, anyone who wants to raise their families on our lands is welcome to do so. At no time did we ever agree to give up our resources, our forests, our animals and birds. I am not talking here about our rights to resources on our reserve lands. I am talking about our rights to our resources throughout our Treaty territory on all unsettled lands.

I know what you are thinking. "That poor crazy Indian is trying to relive the glories of the past. Those treaties were made 128 years ago!" That is nothing new to us. We have heard that kind of talk before. Yet we have not been persuaded by cultural genocide, assimilation, integration, multiculturalism or any other effort to make us forget.

But if the treaties are no longer valid, then explain to me how you acquired your right to use our lands? Can you show me any document, whatsoever which establishes your right to use our resources without our involvement?

The problem for anyone who thinks the treaties are dead and gone is that the Supreme Court of Canada agrees with us. In decision after decision, the Guerin case in 1984, the Sparrow case, the Sioui case, the Badger case, it has sustained our position and verified our rights.

The Sparrow case, for example, dealt with the resource of B.C. salmon. The Supreme Court ruled that when it was necessary to impose conservation measures, every conservation effort should be employed before the First Nation right to fish was touched. When any abridgment of that right is necessary, the Supreme Court said, the First Nations should determine how the conservation objective is to be met and how the restriction is to be carried out.

The specific question of aboriginal title was addressed by the court just last year in the Degalmuukw decision and resolved in our favour. Just last month in the sundown case the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that John Sundown had every right to go into a Saskatchewan provincial park and cut trees and construct a cabin to use when he hunted.

If I were a citizen of Manitoba instead of my own First Nation, I would be concerned about the failure of the province, and specifically the Ministry of Natural Resources, to inform you about the law as set down by the Supreme Court. I would be very concerned if I were you why your provincial government does not sit down with the First Nations in each treaty territory to work out

a plan for the protection and the conservation of natural resources. Can you imagine the liability the province is creating for you to face in the future by refusing to obey the laws of the land? The Supreme Court chastised the province of British Columbia in the Degalmuukw case, saying, "Don't you people ever sit down and negotiate?"

I would be concerned why you did not learn about such things in your education, why your schools today do not teach you about your Treaty rights, about our rights to our resources. I am not talking about teaching what I think about our rights - teach them about what the law says, what Canada's constitution says, what the Supreme Court says.

I would be very concerned that your government is not pro-active in explaining the true legal situation to its constituents, rather than leaving it to us to defend our interests in an antagonistic manner. They set it up so it looks like we are fighting with you. That is not true. We should be working together to insist that the provincial government deal with its legal responsibilities.

I would be concerned that your government is not attempting to negotiate with us the best way of accommodating our rights in modern Manitoba. What we are asking for is very simple. We ask the government to obey the law.

Both the First Nations and the provincial government have to face reality. The reality we have to face as First Nations is that in the Treaty, we put a burden on our aboriginal title by permitting peaceful immigration and settlement. We honour that promise still today.

Fine. But you have a burden on your Crown title, and that is our aboriginal title. All we ask is that you honour your part of the Treaty agreement. That means that within the boundaries of the Treaty, wherever there is any land that is unoccupied, any land that is not used for the purposes of settlement, any commercial exploitation of our resources, the First Nations are involved as a matter of right. We must work together with regard to these lands and resources. We must be involved in decision-making in every step along the way.

This consultation meeting is not the place to resolve issues of this sort. So why am I here? I am here because if I don't show up to set the record straight, the province will tell us that they gave us the opportunity to be consulted and we failed to take advantage of it. If I don't raise these issues, the province will say we have been consulted and they have taken our voice into account along with all the others who do not have the same rights. I am here because this seems to be the only way I can get a message to the government and the minister. They don't want to talk to us about what the Supreme Court says. There is no dialogue, no negotiating table, no respect.

You should hold your provincial government accountable in this regard. If we have to take a case all the way to the Supreme Court, that is a very expensive waste of your tax dollars.

Representatives of Treaty One are prepared at any time to sit down with senior officials of the provincial government to set up an appropriate forum in which these issues can be discussed respectfully and intelligently. We will want the federal government to have its representatives there too. It has a responsibility to keep the Crown's honour, and a fiduciary responsibility to us as the Crown's servant in implementing the Treaty relationship.

In the meantime, if we cannot have dialogue and reach a mutually acceptable agreement, we will have to exercise our rights unilaterally. That does not seem to us to be the best option, but it is the only option the provincial government leaves open at this time, and you can be sure we will use it.

Andrew Beaulieu, Sandy Bay First Nation
[follows is transcript from tape of presentation]

This is from the workbook on page 77, sections 35 and up, in respect to the enforcement...of the Manitoba Round Table. We agree with every one of those, except to the extent that the only real offender here is...the Crown has captured animals and they've brought animals here from out of the country. That is something that troubles our community to a great extent. As the...owners of the resources in this country, not once in history where it can be recorded that we introduced a foreign species into our environment. I'd like to make...one point clear that this practice. You see what's happening at Delta Beach here, Delta Marsh. One plant was introduced that effectively eliminated a lot of wildlife and plants that were natural to this area. Fish being brought in that did not belong to the area, destroying what was naturally there, including plants and other fish species and even insect species being destroyed. That kind of stuff, you know, we talk about sustainable development, we've got to start with our own practices and the government of Manitoba as well as other governments across this country have been the worst offenders. I'm not afraid to say that because they have studies that they have conducted themselves that prove this issue. I think that all I need to speak in that respect. If the government wants participation from the public, and

if they want participation including the honouring of laws in this province, the province should be the first one to start honouring their own laws. Thank you.

Peter Yellowquill, Long Plain First Nation
[follows is a transcript of presentation]

I want to just maybe reinforce that, what Mr. Merrick had to say. My grandfather was one of the signatories of the Treaty. I want to speak on their behalf because it's in my blood to do so.

When the Europeans came into our territory, essentially we agreed to share our land with them. But there are certain things that my grandfather and his colleagues did not give up. I take what's being said is that after all these years that the treaty is a living document. You have certain treaty rights and responsibilities as we do. There were three parties to the treaty, the British, the Ojibwe, and God himself. And God in all His Being, His Son, the Holy Spirit, we went with our traditional faith and we came with a Christian faith. The stewardship of the land, the spiritual responsibility, became an obligation of the Crown also. And we are expected to live up to our responsibility but we also hold the Crown responsible, which includes the province of Manitoba and its citizens.

What Morris and the other Treaty One people have been working on for many, many years is essentially put the province on notice that the time has come, that we shall, if necessary, force them to come to the table. They cannot, no longer, sit there behind their provincial laws and say we've dealt with this issue or that issue. On the world stage, we are no longer little Indians under the Indian Act. We're a people under God like every other people on his planet, and where the honour of the Crown is involved, our honour is also involved. And we have an obligation not only to our ancestors, but to our children and grandchildren that, when they made that treaty, they did not give up certain rights. Those rights are sacred to our children and we shall uphold them for their sake and the province must come to the table or the issue will be forced.

For over a hundred years, we've expected that the province and the Crown and all of the officials respect our treaty. But now the time is here. We've been working on this for many, many years. We've supported Canada in her wars. Our resources supported the victories in Europe. It was the resources from this land that fed the soldiers, that gave them the equipment. Resources that did not belong to Canada, that belonged to our people. I've been in many meetings across this country at different treaty areas... and the message is the same, and it has been that message for over a hundred years. Now the province must listen.

And, like Mr. Merrick says, it would be better if we come back to the table, and I truly believe that also. But if not, I think that there will be action. The Crown must maintain its honour on all aspects of the Treaty and all aspects of those rights and titles that we did not give at the point of treaty. So, speaking on behalf of my grandfathers and my grandmothers, and all those people that have gone, who signed that treaty for this generation standing before you, our duty to all those First Nations people of Treaty One, is to that seven generations behind, and we're going to live up to it. We just hope and pray, it's our fervent prayer that the province shall come to the table in good faith. Because, like I say, we gave a shared spiritual responsibility to land and its resources and there is a treaty between us. The province must abide by it.

WATERHEN FIRST NATION

CHIEF HARVEY NEPINAK

Chief Harvey Nepinak, is the Waterhen First Nation Chief, Chairman of the West Region Tribal Council and Chairman of the Chiefs' Economic Committee of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs. He is also a member of the National Committee of Chiefs for Economic Development, a Chiefs' committee of the Assembly of First Nations. He regrets that he is unable to be present these hearings and has requested that I present some of his considered viewpoints on wildlife management and the new Wildlife Act to you on his behalf.

"I speak to you as the Chief of the Waterhen First Nation and although many other First Nations will share my views, I do not claim to represent other First Nations in this presentation to you. I am pleased to have this opportunity to express our views.

Waterhen First Nation was one of the Bands that accepted Treaty 2 in 1871. At that time and at all times since then, we have asserted that we never surrendered our rights to the fish or the wildlife in our traditional areas. How could we have or how could the Crown have even expected us to, since the resources were the basis of our subsistence. We used fish and wildlife for food and as exchange for other goods. These matters have long since been well documented and I will not dwell on it today.

The history of wildlife management in Manitoba shows how the system has failed to ensure the presence of good wildlife populations. I reference failure based on the following observations: the buffalo is gone from the prairie and the mule deer has all but disappeared from Manitoba; moose have become locally threatened throughout the Province; woodland caribou populations are not secure, being threatened by forestry practices; ducks are greatly reduced in number; elk and beaver have become "problem wildlife" in many regions of the Province. Wildlife in Manitoba has taken a severe beating since Treaty 2 was signed. And what we really take exception to is the fact that the finger is most often pointed at us Treaty people as the root cause of the problems faced by wildlife. Realistically speaking, our community populations have never been large enough to bring about the reductions in populations that I have referenced. We have traditionally been outnumbered - out-gunned if you will - by sport hunters, both resident and non-resident, often only hunting for the head, especially throughout the 50's, 60's and 70's when we suggest that the large animals were threatened most, when the great declines in populations began and were never reversed. Once the damage was done, and the decline set in, the sport-hunters and the Province began more and more to blame the Indian hunters. The sport- hunters were recognized by the wildlife officials as their primary clients and the wolves and the Indians became the villains. Forestry clear-cutting, fire suppression, mining, transportation and hydro developments, all provincially approved developments are never be faulted by wildlife officials but to the contrary were officially sanctioned along with the sport-hunting programs which wildlife managers promoted. "Forestry replicates wildfire and rejuvenates habitat" and "fire suppression preserves habitat." Hunting "bulls only" has no negative impact on moose populations! We don't agree with many of these departmental fundamentals which in our view contribute to wildlife populations being on the slippery slope.

However, at issue today are the new directions that wildlife conservation and wildlife management in Manitoba need to take. The fact that we are here affords some recognition to the need for re-structuring wildlife management.

In my view, wildlife management can achieve little more than limited success without the co-operation and involvement of First Nations. First Nations and the Province must become partners in wildlife management. We have been treated as non-essential in the past, in systems and policies that barely recognized our right to hunt for food and attempted to restrict us in exercising our rights in Wildlife Management Areas and Parks where others were licensed to hunt for sport!

The new Wildlife Act should specifically enable and require First Nations involvement in wildlife management decision making throughout the Province. Our treaty rights have recently - since the 1982 Constitution Act - been afforded better constitutional recognition than ever before. Our co-operation is essential for effective programming, but don't bring your programs to us - we must be intimately involved in the development of the programs. We need to be involved at all management levels in government from policy development to program delivery. First Nations should be invited to participate in drafting new wildlife legislation - our involvement must be more than stakeholder recognition, at round tables such as this. We suggest that to deny our involvement, is to deny the importance of wildlife that is so strongly purported.

The new act should be designed to ensure the protection of all wildlife species and the conservation of the species that are hunted or trapped. Historically, the vast majority of wildlife species have been ignored by the Wildlife Act. This must now change as society moves toward an ecosystem based structure for management of all natural resources. Predators must also be afforded higher value, along with the deer. Without the wolf, the strength of the deer is diminished. Some department in Manitoba should also be looking after plants - rare and endangered and otherwise.

The new act should enable special programming for First Nations in the fashion that the old acts have provided for trappers and recreational hunters in the past. The new act should require the Province to ensure the continuance of populations that can sustain First Nations' use for generations to come. We would welcome special programs for youth, in particular.

The new act should go beyond being the basic tool for enforcement programming and challenge future managers to restore wildlife populations to former numbers in Manitoba. The new act must enable wildlife managers to challenge forestry developments that will have negative impact on all wildlife populations. The new act should challenge future managers to restore wildlife species that have become extirpated. The new act should challenge future managers to ensure that no more species become provincially or locally extirpated. The new act should challenge future managers to report specifically on these matters to the Manitoba Legislature and the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, in the annual reports.

Recently, I presented my views to the forest industry regarding the need for First Nations' involvement and I would like to repeat to you, some of what I told them.

Indian Affairs Minister Jane Stewart is determined "to change forever the circumstances of the country's 800,000 Aboriginal Peoples" in a program code-named Gathering Strength. We are asking the rest of Canada to co- operate with us as we try to emerge from the past dysfunctional relationships we have had with governments and industry and help us build new healthy and functional communities - the kind we all deserve to enjoy. This noble national agenda must also become a reality in the way we do business in forestry and wildlife management here in Manitoba - no longer as adversaries but as consensual partners. We must be included in the loop - as you say - as consensual partners. The present loop in wildlife management includes us only peripherally as other stakeholders. This arrangement is not satisfactory and falls far short of achieving consensual partnership which must be based in recognition of the treaties. We must be involved as planners determining the future landscape in our regions. We are asking the governments and industrialists who have enjoyed a freehand in our regions for over a hundred years to welcome us to the table, so that we too can enjoy the feast that Canada has provided for millions of people. Today we are asking to be involved in wildlife management - a short time ago, I made a similar appeal to the forest industry. We don't seek to stifle recreational hunting or other uses of wildlife on the landscape. We want to get on board and enjoy wildlife like everybody else. We want what is rightfully ours, we must be accepted as partners in the determination of events in our regions. We believe we can all become winners in the new arrangements.

We believe that we will all continue to lose through ineffective wildlife management so long as First Nations are excluded from the processes of management that take place at all levels of government. We urge this panel to recommend change in the relationship with First Nations. We believe you need us for effective wildlife management. I urge you to join us and support us in the Gathering Strength initiative.

Meegwetch!

THE WINNIPEG HUMANE SOCIETY

VICKI BURNS

The Winnipeg Humane Society is a registered charitable organization formed over 100 years ago to protect animals from suffering and to promote their welfare and dignity. The mandate of the Society covers all animals, both wild and domestic. Therefore, The Winnipeg Humane Society is interested in the treatment of wildlife in the province of Manitoba.

Our basic attitude toward wildlife is that they have intrinsic value just by virtue of their being part of the vast ecosystem which makes up Manitoba. We respect their inherent nature and ability to adapt to the natural habitat within the different regions of Manitoba. We believe that our world is richer with the presence of the great diversity of wildlife within our province and that every effort should be made to conserve and preserve that presence.

The following are the key points we promote as essential to the preservation and conservation of wildlife within Manitoba:

- It is essential that we have accurate population information as possible for species that are being used for hunting, trapping, or any other human uses and of course, for species that are at risk of being endangered.

  We strongly support policy 2.7(p.29) in the Wildlife Workbook. The Winnipeg Humane Society is opposed to the trapping of wild elk for the elk ranching industry. However, if it is going to occur, we should at minimum have current information on the population from which the trapping is to be done.

  This past winter we had great concerns about the trapping of elk for the elk ranching industry in the Swan River and Riding Mountain areas. This trapping was done prior to the completion of the population count We are aware of 2 situations in which entire herds of elk were decimated, 1 in the Swan River Valley area and the other in the Riding Mountain vicinity. We have no understanding of the impact this may have on the population as a whole. This action certainly does not convey any regard for the long-term viability of the elk population in these areas, but rather points heavily towards short-term economic gain for the few individuals involved in the elk ranching industry.

  The collection of harvest information from the spring bear hunt is another area which causes us grave concern. The province has in place requirements for all outfitters to submit biological evidence from each bear taken during the hunt. This evidence would provide good information about the demographics of the bears being killed in the hunt. However, this requirement is not being complied with by many outfitters and there is no consequence applied to those who do not comply. This lack of compliance and enforcement only adds to the concerns of animal welfare groups about the ethics of the spring hunt.

- We urge that greater protection be afforded to wildlife within the boundaries of our provincial parks, both through prohibition on hunting and trapping in these areas and protection of habitat. Specifically we suggest a ban on these activities in 6 of the larger parks which represent largely different and unique habitats (Duck Mountain including the northwest addition, Hecla, Spruce Woods, Grass River, Atikaki, and Caribou.) The whole of the province, aside from posted private lands and the national parks, is open to hunting and trapping so it should not be too much limitation to offer protected reserves in these parks.

- We support the development of non-consumptive wildlife industries such as ecotourism. There is a growing international interest in wildlife viewing tourism opportunities as evidenced by the growing success of our Churchill Polar Bear industry. In Colorado following the closing of the spring bear hunt, efforts were made to develop ecotourism and the communities most greatly affected by the ban on the hunt are now enjoying greater economic benefit than they did previously.

  Manitoba has potential for growth in ecotourism due to the diversity of relatively undeveloped habitat, the numerous bird-watching opportunities, and the variety of large mammals. Attendance at large tourism conferences will demonstrate the growing interest in this field in general. The Schad Foundation in Ontario is funding some ecotourism pilot projects for lodges and outfitters affected by the cancellation of the spring bear hunt. These opportunities could also be available to Manitoba.

- We support ethical hunting practices and policy 7.4e (p.67) Wildlife Workbook "to establish and promote ethical and sound hunting and trapping practices." The ethical concerns surrounding the inevitable orphaning of black bear cubs due to their mothers being accidentally killed during the spring hunt are of great concern to us. Although Manitoba regulations state that it is

illegal to kill a mother with cubs, there has never been a charge laid. This indicates a lack of commitment to the ethic underlying that regulation. We need to see evidence that policies defining ethical practices are actually going to be adhered to. The Winnipeg Humane Society is opposed to the spring bear hunt on the ethical grounds outlined above.

- We support policy 8.1(p.70)Wildlife Workbook which states "Wild animals shall be humanely trapped, killed, captured and held in a humane manner." We agree with the suggestion that regulations and procedures governing the hunting, trapping, killing and capturing of animals should be reviewed regularly and that an independent review of such procedures be established. In recent years we have expressed concern over the lack of adequate procedures in the elk trapping program. We were advised that such procedures did exist but staff administering the program did not seem to have familiarity with them.
- We are opposed to the capture of wildlife for the purposes of supplying them to zoos, aquariums, or entertainment /educational venues either locally or internationally. We have been vocal in our opposition to the export of polar bears and beluga whales to zoos / aquariums around the world. These large marine mammals cannot have their natural habitat even remotely replicated in captive settings. The complexity of their normal life patterns are grossly diminished in captivity. We believe that they should be left to live their normal lives in their natural environment. The advance of technology now provides us with the opportunity to learn about them through video footage taken in their natural environment.
- One of the most important factors in the preservation of our wildlife has to be preservation of their habitat. It is essential that we recognize and act on this before it is too late. Long-term sustainability of wildlife needs to take precedence over short-term economic gain.

In conclusion, we commend the Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development on their development of many policies which address the need to treat wildlife in a respectful, humane manner and to try to ensure the preservation of our wildlife for future generations. The Winnipeg Humane Society supports those goals. Wild animals, within the province, are an invaluable part of the tapestry of Manitoba and deserve every effort to ensure their long-term survival as healthy populations.

AUR RESOURCES

To: Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development

Re: Wildlife Strategy Workbook

There are several items from the Sustainable Development Workbook on Wildlife and questionnaire that I have concerns with. I have decided to deal with them in point form.

1) Why wasn't this process piggybacked onto Manitoba's Protected Areas Initiative that has already selected and withdrawn 5.4 million hectares or 8.3% of the province? Why are we going through an area selection process twice? I understand that it is easier to deal with individual pieces of the environment at one time. However, in any ecosystem it is the relationship of the different components that creates the whole. Shouldn't we be looking at the environment as a whole rather than one component at a time? This would make more sense and allow private stakeholders, who are continually getting saddled with financial and time burdens, to get on with their own business.

2) In regards to the questionnaire, most of the questions can be regarded as "motherhood"-type statements that are designed to get the appropriate answer. Such a questionnaire does not evoke discussion but rather supports a redesigned strategy. It would be easy to design such questions for any group. I would choose the following question: Do you want mining jobs in the north? agree - neutral - disagree. Who can reasonably argue with that statement?

3) How much are these initiatives going to cost? There is a statement in the questionnaire that indicates that the expanded wildlife program will use full cost accounting. In other words all of the costs of these additional programs will be borne by existing permit-holders, licensees etc. Will that mean that people in the north will be penalized for the environmental aspirations/ guilt of the south? Will this mean that a hunting license will go up 100% or more or that exploration drilling permits will start to cost 100's of dollars? It would be a lot easier to make a decision regarding the wildlife initiatives if the full cost, in jobs and direct fees, would be evident.

4) In the workbook there is mention that an independent panel will be created to resolve land-use conflicts. What is the make-up of the proposed panel or panels and who can be construed as "independent" or without a preformed opinion? The round table members, who are supposed to be unbiased, have no qualms about espousing their opinions regarding this process. How can you form an independent panel when the round table representatives are biased to start with?

5) Many of the processes described in the workbook are already in place. What are clearly new initiatives and which are old?

6) Why is the questionnaire designed to determine answer or comment consistency? This duplication of purpose has produced an unnecessarily long and laborious questionnaire. How many people will actually make an effort to fill it out or comment on it? Will the length of the questionnaire and its systematic redundancy be a reflection of the bureaucracy and legislation that we can expect?

7) Working on policy statements (as in the questionnaire) is premature. There is not enough information available to stakeholders and perhaps policy developers.

8) Will these wildlife initiatives lengthen the permitting process?

The above points reflect the views of several individuals in the Flin Flon area. In summary we feel that new initiatives regarding "Sustainable Development and Wildlife" are being rushed. It isn't clear what effect these initiatives will have on the lives and businesses that will be most affected by them.

Yours truly,
Don Dudek, Senior
Geologist, Aur Resources Inc.

MARK A. BURCH

To: Manitoba Round Table For Sustainable Development

Dear Sir / Madame:

I'm writing to you following my participation last night in a Round Table public consultation held here in Brandon regarding Manitoba's Wildlife Management Strategy. I was deeply disturbed by what I heard during the meeting. I also felt ill-at-ease to express my own views before a group which, on the face of it, appeared to be extremely hostile to my position.

Evidently, I was the only person from the community of Brandon to attend the evening session of this consultation. All other participants were producers whose operations were located in rural areas in the region. I found this fact alone to be quite stunning.

The discussion group of which I was part addressed some aspects of Policy Area 9 – that relating to Legislation and Administration related to the Wildlife Act. The central theme of discussion at our table clearly reflected a number of attitudes among the agricultural producers present:

(a) The perception on their part that they were absorbing an inequitable share of the cost of damage to their crops and equipment caused by wildlife predation;

(b) The belief on their part that ownership of private property conferred on them an absolute right to utilize or dispose of any species, plant or animal, found on their property which represented either an economic asset or economic liability;

c) The apparent readiness on their part to unilaterally destroy species they perceived to be a "nuisance" (e.g., white-tailed deer, rare or endangered plants) if no program existed that would assure virtually instant and complete financial compensation for losses arising from protection of the species;

d) Clearly expressed apprehensions that if they engaged in any land management practices which resulted in the conservation of a species, that this might also result in their property coming under regulation which might constrain their future claim to absolute sovereignty in how to manage their property so as to return a profit;

e) Their desire to support policies which would subject persons working in the cause of environmental protection or habitat preservation to legal penalties for doing so, if the exercise of this civil right in any way affected their freedom to operate their farms as they wished;

f) An evident lack of awareness of how agriculture itself has helped to create some of the "problems" they identify in relation to wildlife.

I find these attitudes to be uninformed, ill-advised, counter-productive to the goal of wildlife management, and in some instances, chillingly dangerous. I sincerely hope that they are not views that are widely held among other agricultural producers in the area.

First of all, I believe that other species have an intrinsic right to survival which precedes any human interest in whether they are or may become an economic asset or liability. We have a direct, though often non-economically quantifiable interest, in preserving biodiversity and bioviability of all species if for no other reason than each in its own way contributes to the stability and resilience of the ecosystem as a whole. This principle, I think, should form the foundation of Manitoba's wildlife management policies.

Second, since all of us, directly or indirectly, live in relationship to other species and benefit from a stable and biologically diverse ecosystem, both the benefits and the costs of this relationship need to be equitably shared in society.

In relation to this second principle, I could find considerable grounds for empathy for the producers attending our meeting. It was obvious that wildlife predation had a direct economic impact on some (though not all) of their farms. It was also obvious that they felt they were expected to absorb a disproportionate share of the costs of this depredation, though individuals differed in how fairly they felt they had been treated in receiving compensation from DNR for this damage. The strength of their views lead me to feel, as an urban resident, that we need to look more closely into this matter of how the costs of wildlife conservation can be more equitably shared by everyone who has an interest in conserving biodiversity, i.e., all of us, and that measures be devised which make it manifestly obvious, even to agricultural producers, that they are being equitably treated.

On the other hand, what I found alarmingly absent was much of a sense on the part of producers that the land they "owned" was a sacred trust they manage both on behalf of people alive today and future generations. Their relationship to their property was clearly almost totally economic, and their belief that they should be totally at liberty to do with the land whatever they saw fit was, in a word, extreme. Their attachment to this notion was so strong, that they said they were prepared to destroy species rather than honor the intrinsic right of a species to exist or any social contract they might have with the rest of humanity to wisely manage our collective relationship with nature, if these in any way constrained their economic interest. When they clearly indicated their readiness to resort to weapons, poisons and chemicals to achieve this end, I could find little to distinguish this attitude from that of terrorists.

I hope that what I heard last night is not a place most of us want to go in relation to wildlife management policy. I see a glaring need for much more education and a much strengthened section of the strategy dealing with educational objectives. It is not enough that Manitobans understand the economic value of wildlife and that various groups in society have differing views and traditions concerning our relationship with other species. We need to take a much more proactive approach to:

a) helping urban and rural residents understand how their life styles and decisions affect each other;

b) helping all Manitobans understand more about how a diverse and stable ecosystem supports and enables all economic and social progress;

c) helping to modulate in some fashion our concept of private property rights with a counterbalancing sense of social and ecological responsibility to current and future generations of all species;

d) developing a social consensus that vigorous criminal prosecution is the appropriate response when any land owner (urban or rural) attacks another species with the intent of simply keeping his "economic options" open, or escaping regulation should wildlife happen to transit his property;

e) developing a clear social consensus that both the benefits and the costs of maintaining biodiversity must be equitably shared by society, and that producers responsible for large tracts of the Earth's surface deserve substantial recognition and support for the wise management of this asset, just as their choice of their vocation entails accepting extra responsibility for care of the land and its inhabitants.

I also found something ironic in a compensatory regime which has farmers planting crops or maintaining livestock that attracts wildlife depredation for which the farmer is compensated from public funds only to repeat this cycle in the next crop season. The long-term view must dictate that funding be available for basic research into strategies for non-destructive management of wildlife vectors that represent risks to agricultural production. Obviously humans need to eat and wildlife must flourish. Could we do more to discover techniques for achieving both of these goals at the same time without irradicating either wildlife or farmers?

I'm not well versed in wildlife management issues. I attended last night's meeting as a matter of personal information and self-education. I was pleased with how Jack Dubois moderated the meeting at the same time that I was troubled by how few people in Brandon evidently saw enough of a connection between their own lives and that of other species even to attend a meeting to become more informed. This does not bode well for the future. The hour is already late. Education is urgently needed.

Mark A. Burch
Brandon

CANADIAN PARKS & WILDERNESS SOCIETY MANITOBA

General Comments

CPAWS Manitoba agrees with the need for a wildlife strategy in order for Manitoba to fulfill its commitments to *A Wildlife Policy for Canada* (1990), the *Canadian Biodiversity Strategy* (1995) Canada's response to the *1992 Convention on Biological Diversity*, and *The National Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk* (1996 and 1998 versions) as well as the desires of Manitobans to conserve and protect the diversity of species and habitats found across Manitoba. The fact that no mention is made of the above commitments within this workbook is a glaring omission. CPAWS Manitoba believes that, at the very least, the definition of biological diversity, the three main objectives of the Biodiversity Convention and the five goals of the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy should have been included. A rare opportunity for public education and awareness was lost through these omissions.

Secondly, the definition of wildlife as "... any wild species of plant or animal" is far too narrow. CPAWS Manitoba assumed that the definition in *A Wildlife Policy for Canada* would have been adopted. It states: "...all wild organisms and their habitats - including wild plants, invertebrates, and microorganism, as well as fishes, amphibians, reptiles, and the birds and mammals traditionally regarded as wildlife."

At present, protection and responsibilities under The Wildlife Act are limited to those wildlife species that are listed. This leaves many species, including most plants, fungi, lichens, invertebrates, and microorganisms, without any departmental responsibility or protection. None of the proposed Policies address this deficiency.

CPAWS Manitoba is also concerned with the constant references to wildlife as "resources," with no recognition of existence values, the inherent right of all species to exist on earth, or bequest values, i.e., the requirement for this generation to leave an earth rich in native biodiversity for future generations. "Resources" imply that wildlife exist for human exploitation. The intent of exploitation dominates this workbook, as well as the Fish Workbook. CPAWS Manitoba does not believe that the proposed Policies truly reflect the goals of the Land and Water component, as outlined on page 5 of the Workbook. Although a number of wildlife issues are described on pages 6 and 7, not all of these issues have been addressed in the proposed Policies. Since habitat loss and degradation are the biggest threat to wildlife, habitat protection should have been a major focus in this workbook and yet there is no mention of a relationship between wildlife protection and the provincial *Commitment to a Network of Protected Areas* (1992), and the progress of the Parks and Natural Areas Branch in fulfilling this provincial commitment. There is also no focus in the Workbook on the need for real protection for wildlife, such as the creation of areas where all extractive activities, including hunting, are forbidden. There are very few areas of any significant size within Manitoba where wildlife is truly protected, apart from Riding Mountain National Park and a few ecological reserves. Even the "Wilderness" designation does not give protection to wildlife as hunting activities are allowed, even promoted, as economic opportunities within this designation. Habitat can be protected for wild species but commitments to sustaining biodiversity may not be attainable as long as all areas are open for "use."

CPAWS Manitoba is also concerned about the general omission in the Workbook of any roles for ENGO groups or the public. References to the Community Round Tables as vehicles for delivering a wildlife strategy are misplaced as the majority of these exist only for economic development; conservation issues are not a priority.

As well, the success of both a Fish Strategy and a Wildlife Strategy will be dependent on many departments working together towards the same overall goals. Recognition of the need for interdepartmental cooperation and sharing of information and resources is absent from both Workbooks. This is a significant omission.

POLICY AREA 1: ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT AND PROTECTION

Suggested Objectives

CPAWS Manitoba is also concerned about the use of the term "manage" in relation to this Policy. In view of our paucity of information about how these ecosystems function, their interdependencies and interrelationships, it is arrogant to assume that we can "manage" wildlife habitat and species and achieve conservation goals. There must be large areas where wildlife and habitat are allowed to continue to evolve, without human interference and "management." It has been our past land and water "management" practices that have led to the downfall of a number of species in Manitoba.

In this single Policy directed towards protection, it is unfortunate that wildlife is referred to as "resources." Human health is omitted from the list of sustainability factors. Certainly there are huge human health benefits

from outdoor activities related to wildlife such as hiking, canoeing, bird watching, art, and photography to name a few.

We agree strongly regarding the prevention of further habitat loss. The term "significant" is not defined. If areas are small, they may require management strategies such as the periodic burning of prairies or managed grazing, but large areas should be as free as possible of "management" and fire, insect and disease suppression.

Suggested Policies

The sidebar on page 13 identifies our global responsibilities as well as provincial and national responsibilities, i.e., if we fail to protect habitat for neotropical migrants, it is not just our loss, it is a global impact to biological diversity.

Policy 1.1

The Policy should read "Wildlife habitat shall be protected to sustain ALL wildlife," not just wild animal and plant resources. Loss of soil organisms and pollinators could have devastating impacts, not just on ecology and ecosystems, but also on other sustainability factors, especially economics. We cannot replace the free services offered by these species. CPAWS Manitoba agrees strongly with the need for habitat protection as the first priority in a wildlife strategy. This protection must be extended to a network of protected wildlife corridors to maintain genetic drift and biodiversity. Identifying it in the first bullet as "all habitat" includes a number of habitat types that are not listed.

There is no reason not to aim for "high" water quality rather than just "good." We agree with the need to protect instream flows as the highest priority and the need for mechanisms and incentives for landowners to maintain habitat. The fourth bullet on page 14 again identifies only plant and animal populations instead of wildlife populations and overall genetic integrity, and genetic and species diversity. This bullet also contains contradictory statements in relation to protecting habitats from introduced species at the same time as reducing negative impacts of species introduction programs! The need is to prevent the introduction of non-native species into the wild and to remove non-native species that have been inadvertently released into the wild. This is an area that is in need of much more attention. One example is the release of wild turkeys into urban areas. Who is responsible for the introduction? Who is monitoring impacts on native habitat and species? Who is responsible for eradication? The recent problems with boars is another indication that much more emphasis needs to be placed on prevention, rather than trying to address these issues after the releases have taken place. Habitat and biodiversity protection guidelines are required to govern development and land use activities. The federal CEAA biodiversity guidelines should be adopted by the province as guidelines for development and land use planning and activities. We strongly agree with the need to address the issue of connections and impediments to wildlife movements, not just animal movements.

Applications:

The first application should have been the need for all provincial government departments to work together in an integrated fashion to protect wildlife and habitats. Any progress will require this. The EBM pilot process for Ecoregion 90, in which a number of departments are working together, may be the first step in this direction.

1.1a - Agreed, but add other departments and agencies.

1.1b - Agreed other than the uncertainty about "enhancement."

1.1c - Agreed, but Community Round Tables are an unfortunate example of non-government organizations since protection, maintenance or rehabilitation of natural habitats has definitely not been their focus. The Manitoba Naturalists Society's involvement with the Tall Grass Prairie preserve would have been a much more appropriate example.

1.1d - Water quality and quantity objectives are useful, but they are only objectives and can easily be neglected in development proposals, e.g., Maple Leaf meats. What is needed is a wetlands policy for Manitoba that is then translated into enforceable and enforced legislation. (The references to wetlands in the Water Strategy are neither protective nor do they constitute a wetlands policy for Manitoba.) As Manitoba has a large share of Canada's wetlands, our national and international responsibilities for their protection are considerable. Wetlands are very "productive" areas for wildlife and have very little or no protection at the moment.

1.1e - Agree strongly.

1.1f - We agree with the need for protection of wildlife (not just animal) travel and migration corridors, however this application appears to be aimed at solely private or municipal lands, rather than including Crown lands where much habitat fragmentation is also occurring. The public and non-government organizations are excluded and there is no reference to the role of the provincial protected areas strategy.

1.1g - We agree with the intent, but once again the public and non-government organizations are excluded.

1.1h - Agree strongly, but legislation, monitoring and enforcement should be necessary, not optional.

1.1i - Again, legislation, monitoring and enforcement should be necessary, not optional. Why is the Policy simply to control planned or accidental introductions, rather than to prevent such? Prevention of the introduction of exotic species into the wild is necessary if we are to maintain native biodiversity. This includes activities of the Province.

1.1j - Agreed.

1.1k - Why would the Crown sell lands that were significant or critical to wildlife?

1.1l - Agree strongly with the need for fiscal and human resources to monitor and enforce legislation, but along with that must come the political will for monitoring and enforcement. The reference here only to legislation points out the fallacy of depending on guidelines to protect wildlife. Guidelines need to become part of legislation so that enforcement is possible.

1.1m - Agreed.

Policy 1.2

We agree with the intent of this Policy.

Applications:

1.2a - Agreed, but we hope the necessary resources will be allocated to accomplish this.

1.2b - Agreed, but add ecological and human health. As there is no definition of what is meant by "wildlife lands," it is difficult to assess whether the discussion surrounds lands that offer protection to wildlife or lands on which many extractive activities can still occur.

1.2c,d,e,f - It appears that what is being discussed are wildlife management areas. Again, this should include all wildlife, not just wild animal and plant populations. Otherwise we agree with the need for planning, protection, zoning and guidelines. How will these lands add to or be integrated with the provincial protected areas strategy?

1.2d - Our preference would be to ban all "development" on wildlife lands.

1.2e - Again the community round tables are identified, but not the typical non-government organizations involved in habitat or species protection. The community round tables could be greatly improved by having an ecological as well as an economic focus. The present lack of baseline information could be aided by requiring wildlife presurveys for development proposals. Provincial guidelines/protocols for such surveys need to developed to ensure that all information is gathered in a scientifically defensible and consistent manner so that results can be used by the CDC and other government departments.

1.2f - Agreed. Present public review is minimal.

Policy 1.3

The Manitoba Endangered Species Act includes the protection of habitat for species-at-risk. We agree with the intent of this Policy, but there should be no hesitation in legal protection of habitat. This Policy ignores the needs of rare species or species at the edges of their range. Lack of protection for these species means that more expensive rehabilitation/recovery costs may be necessary if they are allowed to become endangered.

Applications:

1.3a - Agreed.

1.3b - Agreed.

1.3c - Again, the community round tables are identified rather than groups that have been actively involved in habitat and species protection. Again, it should include all wildlife, not just wild animal and plant species. Otherwise we agree with the intent of working cooperatively to accomplish the goals.

1.3d - Agreed.

Policy 1.4

There is no definition or explanation of the phrase "where practical." If available dollars were to be the limiting factor, would the government be prepared to allocate funding to habitat restoration or rehabilitation? Do we have the knowledge and expertise to judge and implement?

Applications:

1.4a - Again, do we have the knowledge and expertise to judge and implement? Again, the definition of wildlife should not be restricted to wild animals and plants.

1.4b - The term "where appropriate" is too loose. Decommissioning plans, including rehabilitation, need to be a requirement in development plans; too often they are not. A bond could be required.

1.4c - The term "individuals" is not broad enough to include the public and non-government organizations. Also, it is not only private lands that have been degraded or damaged. The same needs are required for public lands. Otherwise we agree with the need for all to work

together. Rehabilitation projects would be opportunities to create awareness and knowledge of wildlife issues with mechanism for actions.

1.4d - Agreed, but add in the planning of all wildlife related projects.

Policy 1.5

There is not enough information available to accurately judge, but manipulation of habitat to "enhance productive capacity" may be helpful to some species and harmful to others.

Applications:

1.5a - This is an enormous task given the varied habitats. What issue would it solve and for what discreet purposes would this be allowed? Habitat is altered on a daily basis for many purposes. This is altogether too vague for comment.

1.5b - Again, too vague, e.g., "effectiveness" for what purpose?

POLICY AREA 2: ALLOCATION AND SUPPLY

Suggested Objectives

Again, we do not have the knowledge and expertise to just go out and "manage" supplies of wildlife as though they were commodities arising from a simple system. We do not even know what species are out there or how many there are. We still have little understanding of these complex systems, population dynamics, interrelationships and interdependencies, and very little funding is allocated to baseline information gathering, monitoring or research that would assist in making defensible decisions. Also, human health is omitted from the sustainability factors. This Policy is all about supply of "resources" and wildlife as an economic commodity, while at the same time identifying a number of negative outcomes from past practices. Ensuring a "sustainable supply and optimal opportunities" is purely an economic management style that is not based on knowledge or understanding of ecosystems. We do not believe there is enough knowledge to allocate only the surplus, especially given the economic focus of this Workbook. There is no proposed use of the precautionary principle in these allocations. The demise of the red sided garter snakes in some of the Narcisse snake dens should remind us to be a little humble about our understanding of how ecosystems work. The fact that the elk capture had to be cut short last winter is another indication of how much more we need to know before making wildlife decisions.

Suggested Policies

Policy 2.1

Again, the term used should be wildlife populations, not just wild animal and plant populations. How will the decisions be made and who will decide the "balance between conservation and development"? Past decisions, such as the Asessippi ski hill development or allowing resource extraction in provincial parks, show the balance to be clearly in favour of development. There is nothing to indicate that this Policy would change that. Also, if the most accurate and up-to-date information is scant and old, as it is in most cases, how will decisions be made? Finally, there is no mention of the precautionary principle.

Applications:

2.1a - Again the community round tables are identified, with the omission of the non-government organizations. For what species of wildlife do we have the necessary knowledge and expertise to determine "population targets that will ensure the sustainability of managed species"?

2.1b - Again, this is written as though these were simple matters when obviously they are not.

2.1 c - Have we had annual sustainable harvest levels?

2.1.d - No means of accomplishing this are given. We agree with the intent, but increasing road access, mining exploration, and logging are creating additional disturbance of wildlife and habitat. The increasing number of snowmobile trails creates increasing disturbance and opportunities for poaching and illegal hunting and fishing. These activities should not be subsidized and promoted by the province.

2.1 e - Why not simply identify the activities and habitats that are critical to the survival of wildlife as nesting sites, spawning areas, rutting, calving, wintering , denning, salt licks, etc.? Is the Round Table certain that harvest is prohibited during these times and locations? The spring bear baiting certainly does not protect the cubs nor their mothers in a rather crucial period.

2.1 f - Agree strongly, but we are concerned about the source of funding to accomplish this.

21.g - We agree with partnering and working cooperatively with other governments and non-government agencies. We agree with developing and implementing interprovincial, national and international agreements, however, we do not see implementation of the present national agreements, some of which were listed previously. Most of the required commitments are on paper, but

they have yet to be implemented. Manitoba could begin by honouring present commitments to wildlife and habitat. If all of the commitments were implemented, it's possible the Canadian public would have few complaints concerning the protection of species and habitats.

2.1h,j,k - Agreed, although we are concerned about the basis for choosing population targets in 2.1h.

Policy 2.2

Agreed.

Applications:

We can agree with the Applications as long as the precautionary principle is the basis for setting limits. There may be instances where wildlife species simply cannot satisfy harvest and use requirements, especially with the increasing populations in many Aboriginal communities. There must be discussions with Aboriginal communities regarding the needs for conservation and protection. I do not believe there is a broad understanding of the need to protect species-at-risk (primarily because of non-Aboriginal people's activities) and thus proposed or existing legislation is seen as a threat to treaty rights and Aboriginal rights. This may be due to a lack of consultation over these issues. We highly recommend that the province pursue the employment of local Aboriginal people to assist in monitoring wildlife harvest and use, as well as in educational opportunities. An understanding of local traditions, land use patterns, traditional knowledge, and respect are essential in order to work with Aboriginal communities in a positive manner. We also support the idea of co-management of wildlife species with local Aboriginal communities, as envisaged in A Wildlife Policy for Canada.

2.2a,b,c,d,e - Use the term wildlife throughout rather than wild animal or wild animal resources.

Policy 2.3

We agree with the intent of this Policy, but the word "species" should be substituted for "resources." Also, we are unclear as to what basis the province is going to decide the desired population numbers for each species.

Applications:

Agree in general, as long as 1) There are areas established in which there is no wildlife harvest where species are at risk, and harvest is limited to that of Aboriginal harvest in other specific wildlife lands or other types of protected areas; and 2) Sufficient fiscal and human resources are provided to ensure an effective monitoring and enforcement regime.

Policy 2.4

Substitute the term wildlife for wild animals and plants. CPAWS Manitoba does not agree with commercial uses of wildlife for private gain. The intent of this Workbook appears to be to allocate wildlife above some bare minimum, i.e., the "surplus." We are not confident that the province has the baseline information or knowledge upon which to base this "use" and "allocation."

Applications:

2.4a - How will the demands of tourism be identified? The province is spending considerable effort and money to ensure that Manitoba is considered as a tourism destination. Local communities are also putting a great deal of effort into attracting tourism and wilderness, cultural and ecotourism to their areas. For tourism success, wildlife viewing requires the presence of wildlife to avoid disappointment, to promote return visits, and to promote good advertising through "word-of mouth." With the increasing emphasis and perhaps dependency on tourism, wildlife conservation becomes even more important from economic, cultural and social perspectives and should receive higher priority than consumptive uses such as hunting. The recently released "The Importance of Nature to Canadians: Survey Highlights" identifies Manitobans' higher than average participation in nature-related activities (87.4% vs. the national average of 84.6%), as well as our higher than average participation in outdoor activities (47.1% vs. 40.7%). Manitoba, along with Ontario, had the highest percentage of residents who visited parks or other protected areas (73.6% vs. the national average of 56.9%). Obviously nature and wildlife conservation are important to Manitobans. None of this seems to be reflected in the Workbook.

2.4b,c - Cultural benefits of wildlife are omitted. Also, fees should reflect the ecological, economic and social costs of use. Thus, licence costs should reflect at least part of the costs of population monitoring, monitoring and enforcement of legislation, and much needed research into learning about these complex ecosystems. Tenure may be useful to stimulate development, but it may also work against conservation.

Policy 2.5

Why should private interests to public wildlife be protected, when the wildlife itself is not protected?

Any present rights should not be transferable, and in areas of high pressure on wildlife or where wildlife populations fluctuate considerably, the province may wish to have measures in place to repossess such rights.

Policy 2.6

Manipulating wildlife to increase the "supply" for allocation purposes is not acceptable. There is not enough knowledge of the impacts of such manipulations on wildlife as a whole.

Applications:

2.6a - Agreed, based on sound scientific knowledge and the precautionary approach, and supplemented by traditional and local knowledge of wildlife habits, habitat and populations.

2.6b - Disagree. This implies that the province would foster wildlife propagation on agricultural or Aboriginal lands to "enhance" wildlife populations. As per the Rio Convention and the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy, *in situ* preservation is the choice, not *ex situ*. Given the huge amount of Crown land in Manitoba, there should be no need for enhancement of populations on private or Aboriginal lands except under very exceptional circumstances.

2.6c - Disagree. This sounds like it could be a public relations scheme for non-native species introductions and manipulations of habitat. Information programs are needed, but the information must be non-biased and represent the best scientific information available.

2.6d - Who would decide which species are "appropriate" and on what basis? Removing the threats that were responsible for the species becoming at risk is probably even more important, as population numbers will not increase or be sustainable otherwise.

Policy 2.7

Add the wording "...and the precautionary principle." The most accurate information available may be scanty and out of date. Also, cultural and human health opportunities are omitted.

Applications:

2.7a - Agreed.

2.7b - Agree on the need for a comprehensive data base.

2.7c - Once again, the community round tables are only identified. Non-government organizations, particularly those involved in conservation efforts, and the general public must have access to information.

2.7d - Agreed, but should refer to wildlife, rather than just wild animal and plant populations.

2.7e,f,g,h - Agreed.

POLICY AREA 3: DEVELOPMENT AND USE

(Note: Policy Area 2 was certainly about use as well.)

Suggested Objectives

Is this really different from Policy Area 2? There should be some reference to non-use as being the "best use of wildlife resources" in some instances. Many other non-Aboriginal Manitobans also harvest wildlife for domestic use (berries, fungi, plants, crafts materials, etc.) as well as for medicinal purposes.

Suggested Policies

Policy 3.1

The term "industries" implies a more intensive harvesting of wildlife than is presently occurring. Given the significant lack of information about present domestic use, as well as about wildlife populations and species, how will the province ensure that development/exploitation is sustainable? Since most of the allocation of wildlife "resources" has already been captured in Policy Area 2, what resources are left to offer for even more use and development?

Applications:

3.1a - CPAWS Manitoba can support the promotion of cultural and ecotourism as long as the ecological footprints are low. There should be no push to promote more non-resident hunting, the fur industry, the hunting service industry or other commercial wildlife-based industries, until/unless the province is willing to invest sufficient funding to produce sound baseline information on species and populations, and fund sufficient staff to monitor and enforce wildlife legislation. Present intentions to further reduce staffing by 10% do not make us feel confident that this will be the case. We are against commercial harvesting of snakes, frogs, antlers, and plants. The unexplained problems at Narcisse point out how little we know about these species, even though these populations have been the subject of research for many years. Many concerns have been voiced about frog populations. Shed antlers serve ecological purposes in the wild. Also, who would monitor the impacts of commercial plant harvesting?

3.1b - Is there any economic or marketing opportunity that has been left out?

3.1c - Does this mean that the province would subsidize upgrades to private tourism-related facilities? The province should encourage and assist Aboriginal communities in developing cultural and ecotourism opportunities

within their areas. It is interesting that there is no mention of controlling or even preventing forestry roads, access, and the visual impacts of logging activities. Tourists do not pay to see clearcuts. The increase in logging is counterproductive to promoting wilderness or ecotourism.

3.1d - Agreed.

3.1 e - Agree with the first bullet, but have reservations about the second as too many trails lead to increased habitat fragmentation, and increased access for illegal hunting and fishing activities. Arboretums and botanical gardens have little to do with native biodiversity.

3.1f - Given the aging population and increased environmental awareness, it may not be possible to return to former levels of hunting. We would strongly resent significant funds being diverted from information needs to promoting residential hunting.

3.1g - Agreed.

3.1h - This may be a hindrance to competition, best practices and efficiency.

3.1i - If what is being proposed is something akin to the protection offered agricultural activities through legislation, we cannot agree. Rather, the province should encourage humane trapping and hunting practices, and non-harassment of wildlife.

3.1j - It is unclear what these perceived "barriers" consist of and whether they really are a serious impediment to wildlife-related development.

Policy 3.2

Again, it appears the authors of the Workbook do not wish to miss any opportunity to produce dollars from wildlife. CPAWS Manitoba cannot agree with this Policy.

Applications:

Obviously the intent of wildlife lands is not to protect either wildlife or its habitat. Development and infrastructure are not compatible with wildlife protection.

Policy 3.3

Agreed, with the addition of cultural and human health.

Policy 3.4

Agreed as long as the harvest is well within ecological limits.

Policy 3.5

Agreed.

POLICY AREA 4 PLANNING AND INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT

Suggested Objectives

We agree strongly with the statements regarding the need for planning that are included in this Policy Area. CPAWS Manitoba agrees, although the balance required must be tipped in favour of sustaining ecological integrity and biodiversity in order that natural processes and ecosystems can continue to provide their free services. In point 2), the term "cultural" is missing from the sustainability factors. Again, although there is note of a lack of information, there is no mention of the precautionary principle or of adaptive management as knowledge increases.

Suggested Policies

Policy 4.1

Agree strongly.

Policy 4.2

Agreed, but add cultural to the sustainability factors.

Applications:

4.2a a. - Again, the concern about "enhancement" of biological diversity.

4.2a d. - Agreed.

Again, in 4.2a c., the term "community round tables" is used as a surrogate for non-government organizations. In many areas, citizen monitoring is being promoted. Funding to accomplish these Applications is also a concern. We agree with the need for ecosystems-based management and a system plan for wildlife lands, established with meaningful public consultation.

Policy 4.3

Applications:

4.3a,b,c,d,e - Agreed, but more than guidelines are needed. There must be legislation that can be monitored and enforced. Agree in general, but legislation is required to put the guidelines into effect. Non-enforceable guidelines are not sufficient.

4.3f - What is "acceptable compliance"? Either there is or there is not compliance.

Policy 4.4

Agreed.

Policy 4.5

Agreed. The decision to implement game ranching, without public consultation and in conflict with previous public surveys, was a poor decision and has caused much conflict and concern.

Applications:

4.5a Agree strongly.

Policy 4.6

Agree strongly.

Applications:

4.6e The agreed upon CCME target is pollution prevention not just reduction.

Policy 4.7

Agree strongly.

POLICY AREA 5: URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Suggested Objectives

Agreed, but with the addition regarding the need to consider protection of remaining wildlife corridors, rehabilitation of degraded or lost corridors so that urban areas are not a barrier to safe travel or genetic drift.

Suggested Policies

Agreed with the usual concern to refer to wildlife, not just wild animal and plant species. We agree with the need for various levels of government to work together as in 5.4a; review and revision of provincial legislation as in 5.1i; inclusion of wildlife and habitat factors in urban planning and development impact assessment as in 5.2a; and information and education programs as in 5.5.

POLICY AREA 6: PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

Suggested Objectives

Again, culture is missing. We agree with the intent of this Policy Area. However, there should not be an assumption that rural people are automatically connected with the natural environment, particularly as more and more people living in rural areas are commuters or part-time residents.

Suggested Policies

Policy 6.1

Cultural is omitted again and the term wildlife should be used in place of wild plants and animals. Again community round tables are identified, but at least the role of volunteer groups is recognized in relationship to public education. We agree with the intent of the Policy.

Policy 6.2

Agreed.

Applications:

Agree in general.

6.2a c. - Should also include "encourage participation in the protection of wildlife."

6.2b - List omits any reference to protection of wildlife or habitat, impacts of habitat fragmentation, loss or degradation, wildlife corridors, or rare and endangered species.

Policy 6.3

Agreed.

Applications:

6.3a - Missing from the values of wildlife are the inherent and inheritance values, pharmaceuticals, and sacred spiritual or cultural values. Any educational information that discusses sustainable development in relation to wildlife must also include information about provincial commitments to national and international documents, and must include the need for protected areas as a necessary part of any sustainable development strategy.

Policy 6.4

Agreed.

POLICY AREA 7: HUMAN HEALTH AND PROPERTY PROTECTION

Suggested Objectives

Agreed except for "enhancing biological diversity" with which we disagree strongly. Many exotic species could be added to "enhance" biodiversity, but this would be extremely detrimental to sustaining native biodiversity. The release of wild boars may have temporarily enhanced biodiversity, but over the long run would have very detrimental impacts.

Suggested Policies

Policy 7.4

Agreed.

Applications:

7.4h - Agreed. The increased focus on the harvesting of medicinal plants, ornamentals, fungi, etc., will need close monitoring to ensure that harvests are sustainable and there are not negative impacts to specific species.

POLICY AREA 8: HUMANE TREATMENT OF WILD ANIMALS

Suggested Objectives

Agreed. In all interactions with wildlife, respect must be shown. The province must set a good example and not repeat some of its past practices with respect to the elk capture and transport, as per 8.1b and 8.3d.

8.2d - More than discouragement is needed for the taming and feeding of wildlife. These practices can create dangerous situations and any attempts at habituation of wildlife should be forbidden.

8.2e - Agreed. Such permits should be very difficult to obtain and very few permits should be issued. We would prefer that no permits be issued for the keeping of wild animals as pets. Policy 8.1 must apply to the actions of the province as well. There were many concerns over the capture, holding and transport of elk. The province must lead by example.

POLICY AREA 9: LEGISLATION AND ADMINISTRATION

Suggested Objectives

CPAWS Manitoba agrees that The Wildlife Act needs major revision.

What Are The Issues?

In applying the Principles and Guidelines of Sustainable Development to wildlife management, it must be clear that ecological sustainability is basic to sustainable development. Without it, the other sustainability factors fail. As well, it is not the management of wildlife that is required, it is human activities that must be managed. Ecosystems have managed themselves for centuries without our interference. It is we humans that have created the present problems of habitat loss and degradation, and species declines.

Wildlife should have the same definition as that found in *A Wildlife Policy for Canada* (1990). The definition must be inclusive, else there are many species over which no department has any mandate for protection or use.

The purpose of the Wildlife Branch should be the stewardship of all wildlife in Manitoba, in an integrated fashion and in cooperation with other departments with related mandates. All branches within MNR must work together on an ecosystems-based management basis. No one Branch is completely isolated from the others, i.e., Fisheries and Wildlife have overlapping mandates for species that spend only part of their lives in water. Riparian health impacts both terrestrial and aquatic species. Water Resources needs to ensure that water quality and quantity are sustained for the health of all species, including humans. Allocations and management of our forests by the Forestry Branch impact all wildlife, terrestrial and aquatic. For the Parks and Natural Areas Branch to fulfill the province's commitments to a network of representative protected areas, all departments must work together.

As part of its stewardship mandate, the Branch must have as its purpose the objectives of the *Convention on Biological Diversity* and the *Canadian Biodiversity Strategy* in order to fulfill Manitoba's commitments to these documents. These objectives can be summarized as: the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of biological resources, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources (*Canadian Biodiversity Strategy*, p. 8). The authors of any new legislation must review the national and international commitments that Manitoba has signed regarding wildlife, forests, protected areas, species-at-risk, etc., and incorporate these commitments into legislation.

The classification system for wildlife lands should nest with the system used to classify protected areas in order to make accounting for areas easy. However, since there is no protected areas classification that truly protects wildlife, there must be lands that are free from any wildlife use so that we have benchmark, reference areas, areas where natural evolution can take place. With Manitoba's huge area and small population, it should be possible to designate areas which are free from hunting, trapping, fishing, roads, wild rice harvesting, and other pressures.

Designated wildlife lands should be established through a similar process as protected areas. The Wildlife Branch should identify areas of interest, in concert with other Branches, and once identified, there should be meaningful consultation with the broad spectrum of Manitobans. However, the example of consulting with industry first, as in the case of protected areas, should not be used. These are public lands and public wildlife, and it should be the public as a whole that has the most opportunity for input, not those with a vested, private interest. The process should be as open and transparent as possible. Once designated, lands should be modified or removed only through a public notification and consultation process. Modification or removal must not be easily accomplished.

CPAWS Manitoba strongly believes the public should be involved.

The addition of infrastructure to wildlife lands should be minimal. There may be some areas that already have access that are amenable to wildlife viewing towers, but there should be no structures which become impediments to wildlife movements, nesting or other life cycle needs. Harassment of wildlife must not be allowed. Any infrastructure should be concentrated in a small area so that impacts are limited. Our preference would be for no infrastructure, however we also understand the need for economic gain.

Humane treatment can be legislated and is necessary, but with the limited monitoring and enforcement capacity, a public awareness and education program and mandatory training for hunters, trappers, fishers, other users are required. Citizen monitoring and reporting should be encouraged. Government itself should set the example. The capture, transport and treatment of elk were examples that should not be repeated.

Forestry, mining, hydro development should NOT be allowed on designated wildlife lands.

Wildlife management should be paid for partly out of licences, fees. These should reflect the actual costs of data collection needed to support these activities, monitoring and enforcement costs. However, much of the costs will be borne by the public, as it is the public at large that benefits from the ecological services provided free of charge by wildlife. It is the public at large that would foot the bill for replacement foods in many cases. It is the public at large that enjoys the privilege of seeing, photographing, and benefiting from the spiritual and energy rejuvenation from spending time in wilderness or semi-wilderness.

Mediation is one method that could be used to settle disputes. Advisory boards have been used but generally these boards are made up of those with vested private interests and the public at large and conservation / protection interests are not represented. This must change.

CPAWS MB strongly disagrees with the privatization of wildlife. Privatization is not in the best interests of the public or wildlife.

Wildlife Act Review Suggestions from the Round Table

Although we understand the need to include references to the Principles and Guidelines of Sustainable Development in a revised Wildlife Act, there should be a much larger focus on ecosystems-based management, protection and conservation of ecosystems and ecological processes, rather than repeated focusing on sustainable development, particularly since the provincial interpretation of sustainable development means a focus on development rather than sustainability. There does not appear to be a recognition of the fact that these are complex ecosystems, about which we know and understand very little, and it is arrogant to assume that we have any real knowledge of the level of human interference that can be tolerated before irreversible impacts develop, particularly those from the cumulative impacts of many small, largely neglected, impacts. Nowhere in this Workbook is the precautionary principle even mentioned. Much humility is needed in making proposals to "manage" and "allocate" wildlife.

E6 - Agreed. Addressing the needs, aspirations and concerns of local residents must not over-ride the needs of wildlife or of society at large.

CPAWS Manitoba is concerned about the increasing pressures to privatize wildlife and to own exotic species. A new Wildlife Act must be very strong in protecting native wildlife and the genetic integrity of our native wildlife. It must forbid penned hunt farms and be sensitive to the desires of Manitobans as a whole to protect biological diversity and species-at-risk.

L.25 Agree that the Act should prevent the harvesting or removal or moving of any endangered species.

S.36 Amalgamation of other Acts

We do not see any advantages to amalgamating The Endangered Species Act into the Wildlife Act. While there may be some advantages in integrating The Ecological Reserves Act into The Wildlife Act, CPAWS Manitoba would not want to see any downgrading of the protection of habitat and species that is presently offered in The Ecological Reserves Act. The Wildlife Act could highlight species-at-risk by listing all species listed and reviewed under The Endangered Species Act.

T.37 Agree strongly that the Act be binding on the Crown. A new Act should make reference to rare species and offer them protection when development proposals are reviewed. There should also be references to the CDC and an ongoing measure of financial support from the province for data collection, storage and accessibility by the public, other jurisdictions, and development proponents.

DARLENE GARNHAM

To: Members of the Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development:

On Wednesday, May 19th I attended the public workshop for the Sustainable Development on Wildlife Management in Winnipeg, and the following week I attended the Formal Presentations at the same location. It is my understanding that the public workshops and formal presentations conducted across the province are part of the "public consultation process" and I am appreciative of the opportunity to participate in that process.

Although I agree with most in attendance at the Winnipeg workshop that the Workbook on Wildlife was somewhat intimidating (by its volume alone) I, along with most others, did make an effort to read the workbook and provide my comments.

I have some serious concerns regarding one of the formal presentations I listened to. The Winnipeg Humane Society Executive Director, Vicky Burns, started out her presentation by saying she represented 16,000 members. She also volunteered that many people were surprised at the Winnipeg Humane Society becoming involved with issues pertaining to wild animals, but that it was entrenched in the society's constitution when it was formulated many decades ago. During the panel question period at the end of her presentation, she admitted that only a couple of her Board members, specifically "those who had expressed an interest" had even seen the workbook. She further admitted that not one of those 16,000 members she was supposedly representing had seen the workbook, or obviously, provided any input! I feel it would be very misleading for the Round Table to interpret her presentation as the views of 16,000 people.

I personally agree with some of the points she raised and I disagree on others, but that is not the issue I am raising. I feel it would be an injustice to the public who took the time to review the workbook and who are truly interested in establishing a sound wildlife management strategy to attribute her comments / presentation to more than a handful of people.

Thank you.
Sincerely, Darlene Garnham

ABE LEDOUX

Wildlife management Camperduck area trapper's & fisherman's concerns:

1. Study the cormorant in Pelican Lake and Lake Winnipegosis.
2. Study the Pelican and other birds.
3. Beavers
4. Do a study on the animals for the Maine's disease on wolves, coyotes, moose, elk, deer, caribou, and also if any on birds
5. Study on spawning grounds for pickerel.
6. Study to be done on lakes, creeks, rivers and rearing ponds to stock fish fry, this to be done in order to stock pickerel on Lake Winnipegosis and Pelican Lake.
7. A study to be done on the bear hunters, such as what types of bait is used? How close are these bear stands to the trapper's and fisherman's cabins?
8. Other studies such as cormorant waste, if possible could it be used for fertilizer if there is a market for it?
9. Other things can be look at such monies for fish enhancement. Working together is the most important with wildlife, fisheries, forestry, and communities getting involved.
10. Open beaver dams so the pickerel can go up river to spawn.
11. Life Trap, to take beaver and transplant to Block C Area and keep those rivers open at all times, such as the Cowan River for canoeing, from Cowan to Riverside Lodge, and tourism, etc.
12. Study the rivers for pollution, murk, on Cowan River, Duck River, Pine River, Garland River and creeks for spawning common grounds.

MANITOBA NATURALISTS SOCIETY

Dear Mr. Cummings and Round Table Members:

The Manitoba Naturalists Society (MNS) wishes to participate in the development of a sustainable development strategy for wildlife management in Manitoba. The objectives of our 1500-member society are integrally tied to Manitoba's natural environment and the wildlife in it: promoting and participating in activities related to natural history, educational and recreational programs and field trips, and environmental advocacy. We would like to take this opportunity to contribute our suggestions and concerns about the Manitoba Round Table's proposed Wildlife Strategy by commenting on the suggested wildlife resource objectives, policies and applications outlined in the *Workbook on Wildlife.*

On first reading, the objectives, policies and applications contained in this workbook appear laudable. We have difficulty fully supporting them, following careful second thought, because they are written in such general terms that they could be interpreted and put into practice in a variety of different ways. Also, in a number of statements, key terms or phrases are not clearly defined. For example, application 1.2b recommends -that social, cultural and economic considerations be evaluated and addressed when lands are being considered for designation as wildlife lands. No discussion is provided on how social, cultural and economic benefits would be balanced against wildlife benefits in situations where they may be in conflict. Policy 1.4 recommends that degraded or damaged habitat shall, *where practical* (our italics), be rehabilitated or restored. Within this policy, application 1.4b recommends that, *where appropriate* (our italics), rehabilitation plans be prepared and implemented-upon decommissioning of developments. In both cases, no mention is made of what criteria would be used to make these determinations. Application 5.lb recommends that protective designations be given to lands critical to species at risk in urban areas *where feasible* (our italics). No discussion or examples are provided to illustrate how feasibility might be determined. Policy 2.6 recommends that, *where feasible and desirable* (our italics), wild plant and animal populations shall be increased. Within the policy, application 2.6d recommends that management plans specific to increasing populations of *appropriate* (our italics) species at risk shall be developed. The criteria that would be used to make these decisions are not provided. In summary, the use of ambiguous words and statements raises the question of how these policies will be interpreted. A better approach might be to omit all qualifiers and simply recommend that the provincial government actively seek opportunities that would facilitate putting these goals into effect.

In some cases, it seems that the specific goal of a policy or application is either not clearly thought out or not clearly explained. For example, returning vulnerable or endangered species to stable, self-sustaining population levels that would aid in their long-term survival is a desirable objective. If this is the primary objective of policy 2.6, then the policy statement should reflect this. From a biological perspective, we would like to make another point about the wording of this policy. Wild plants and animals are part of a complex mix of biotic and abiotic components and processes that, together, comprise ecosystems. No individual part should be managed separately, in isolation from the rest of the components that make up the system. Modifying population numbers of just one species in an ecosystem can have profound effects on a variety of species within that ecosystem. While our knowledge of game and fur-bearing species is considerable, our biological understanding of other species and the processes at work in ecosystems is often meager. For these reasons, as much as possible we should shift our emphasis from managing on a species-by-species basis in order to optimize the economic, social and cultural benefits of species of interest to managing the whole ecosystem to ensure its ecological sustainability. In general, the overall tone of the Wildlife Workbook seems slanted toward capitalizing on the economic value of wildlife and wildlife habitat. A more reasonable approach would be to recognize all the benefits (e.g., biodiversity) and values (e.g., cultural and spiritual) that wildlife and wildlife habitat contribute to the well-being of ecosystems, in which humans are just one component.

Policy 1.5 recommends that habitat may be altered to enhance productive capacity for wild animals and plants or assist in the maintenance of species. Within the policy, application 1.5a is aimed at establishing the criteria and circumstances under which habitat may be altered. Enhancing the productive capacity of habitats that have been degraded or destroyed, or to assist in the maintenance of species is probably desirable. However, a general policy that promotes altering habitats to enhance the productive capacity of wild animals and plants may not be. Not infrequently when habitat is altered to enhance the productive capacity of one or more species, it is accomplished at the cost of some productive capacity of other species that share the ecosystem. For this reason,

policy 1.5 should be carefully considered. Public review of the criteria and circumstances developed for application 1.5a should be provided before instituting policy 1.5 carte blanche.

Some policies and applications presented in the Workbook are agreeable but insufficient information is provided to enable us to decide whether they would work in practice. For example, application 1.1e recommends that the provincial government work with the public, industry, local government and stakeholders to develop and implement guidelines to anticipate, prevent or mitigate habitat fragmentation and its adverse effects. For more than a decade, the Manitoba Clean Environment Commission (CEC) has conducted environmental assessments of proposed, larger-scale developments. The purportedly independent CEC panels have conducted environmental screenings of proposed developments before they were approved in order to (theoretically, at least) anticipate, prevent or mitigate environmental damage or degradation. Potential developers, such as Louisiana-Pacific (L-P) and Ski Asessippi, and a cross-section of stakeholders have made submissions before CEC panels in support of, or against, a wide variety of proposed developments throughout Manitoba (e.g., logging in and near Duck Mountain Provincial Park, development of a ski hill in Asessippi Provincial Park). In virtually all cases, the proponent has been given the "go ahead" to proceed with the development in spite of environmental concerns raised at the CEC hearings. Even though environmental conditions have, in some cases, been imposed on the licenses, these developments have resulted in the continued loss and fragmentation of wildlife habitat. Indeed, the public has no assurance that environmental conditions of the licenses have been met. Given that the CEC framework has not worked, how will application of 1.1e resolve the continued fragmentation and nibbling away of wildlife habitat that results from developments that depend on natural resources?

Policies 2.1-2.4 describe the priorities for allocation of wildlife resources. Allocation of wild animals and plants for commercial uses would be ranked fourth in the priority list after allocations have provided for biological sustainability, Aboriginal treaty and constitutional obligations, and hunting and trapping activities. If policies 2.1-2.4 had already been in place, the CEC would have been required to prevent or severely curtail developments such as L-P's forestry operations. The MNS would wholly support such a change in government policy, however past experience has left us skeptical about whether there is the political will to enforce such a dramatic shift in philosophy.

Some of the applications contained several different activities within one statement, some with which the reader may agree and others with which he/she may differ, thereby making it difficult to choose an appropriate response. For example, policy 5.6 would accommodate the creation, maintenance and ongoing development of professionally managed and accredited zoos, aquariums, arboretums, conservatories, interpretive centres and nature museums. While all of these types of facilities and displays are related to nature, some involve the use of live animals (e.g., zoos) while others frequently do not (e.g., nature museums) and that distinction is an important one for some people. Policy 9: G 13c provides for the allocation of wild animals through licensing systems for game farming, wild animals in captivity and possession of wildlife animal parts, e.g., eagle feathers, owl carcasses. Again, the first two activities involve the use of live animals while the last activity appears to involve the use of parts taken from dead wildlife. By lumping diverse items together in some statements, the questionnaire respondent may not be given the opportunity to fully express his/her preferences.

The MNS does not support some policies or applications as proposed.

- Application 1.1j recommends controlling waste management and pollution through the development and implementation of regulations, standards and guidelines. Manitoba needs regulations with clear limits based on scientific data. Standards and guidelines should be removed from this application. Government needs the resources to ensure effective enforcement, not a policy that just encourages potential polluters to adhere to standards and guidelines based on an "honour" system.
- Policy 1.3 recommends that endangered ecosystems and habitat essential to the protection of species at risk should be preserved, protected and, if required, designated under legislation. The condition "if required" should be deleted from policy 1.3. All endangered ecosystems and habitat required by species at risk should be wholly protected under law.
- Application 3.1a(d) recommends that opportunities and programs aimed at commercial, wildlife-based industries, such as harvesting or collecting snakes, frogs... and plants, should be promoted. These sorts of harvesting programs should be permitted rather than

promoted, and only if there are clear scientific data that show these species and their current population numbers can support the proposed harvest levels over the long term.

- Policy 3.2 recommends that compatible, environmentally sound and sustainable economic development of appropriate designated wildlife lands shall be promoted. To this end, application 3.2b says that opportunities for sustainable development, which can be implemented by the private sector or local communities, should be identified and encouraged. Based on the figure caption given on page 34 of the Workbook, the Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development apparently believes that forestry, mining, petroleum and agricultural activities are environmentally sound and do not pose any risks to wildlife. Scientific evidence has proven otherwise. These sorts of activities can and do pose risks to wildlife and therefore should not be promoted on lands specifically designated for wildlife.
- Applications 3.2c & d would promote wildlife lands for viewing, ecotourism, and hunting and trapping. While we support wildlife viewing and ecotourism, public access should be controlled to ensure that wildlife and plant populations are not overrun.
- Application 3.3b recommends that fees, royalties and charges for the use of wildlife, wildlife lands, and facilities should, among other things, be based on competition with other jurisdictions. We should not base our prices on how much other jurisdictions are charging. We should set our fees on the actual environmental, economic, social and cultural costs of developing and/or using these resources. The word competitive should also be removed from describing fees and royalties in policy 9:M26.
- Application 4.2a(e) also makes recommendations about establishing a land zoning classification system, which would describe permitted land and resource uses and multiple use on designated wildlife lands. If land has been specifically designated for wildlife because it contains critical habitat, then resource extraction activities should not be permitted there.
- Policy 9: C4 provides definitions of "wildlife" and "animal." The provincial government has already made commitments to support the Wildlife Policy of Canada and the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy, and both of these contain a good definition of "wildlife." We recommend that the provincial Wildlife Act adopt the definition set out in the Wildlife Policy of Canada.

The MNS recommends that additions be made to some policies and applications.

- Applications l.lc, 1.2e, and l.3c should include conservation groups.
- Another application should be added to policy 1.4 that would recommend that individual(s) or group(s) that benefit from the destruction of habitat should bear the cost of repairing it.
- Application 2.2c deals with the exchange of information with Aboriginal communities. Local and traditional ecological knowledge of wild animal populations (e.g., distribution, abundance, habitat use, health, behaviour) should also be included in this application.
- Policy 6.2b should also include the protection of habitat, wildlife corridors and life cycles.
- Policy 6.3a recommends the development of general, sustainable development information on wildlife and fish for use by teachers. The ecological roles (niches) of wild plants and animals in Manitoba's ecosystems should be added to the list.
- Policy 7.4 and application 7.4h recommend the safe and ethical use of wildlife for non-consumptive purposes. These should include the harvesting of wild plants, berries, fungi, and medicinal herbs and harvesting for craft activities.
- Application 8.2c should also inform the public about the need to respect wildlife.
- In the fourth bullet of Policy 9: L25, "endangered plant species" should be replaced with "endangered wildlife."
- Policy 9: M26c would provide for the imposition of fees and royalties for leases for various land use activities (e.g., forestry operations, mining, petroleum production, private trail development and agricultural activities) within designated Crown wildlife lands. Fees should be paid for use of, and access, to wildlife resources and lands on all Crown lands, not just wildlife designated lands.
- Policy 9: N27 provides for the acceptance of land donations and their protection as designated wildlife Crown lands. This policy should also include the statement that donated lands designated as wildlife Crown land cannot be used for other purposes except with full agreement of the donor.

Policy 4.7 recommends the provincial government work towards a provincial accounting system that includes the reports on the natural capital, including wildlife resources, of the province. This policy should be expanded to include resource user fees that would encourage resource users to behave in a more environmentally responsible manner. For example, forest companies are currently given the use of Crown lands at a cost far below the value of the land and the wild plants and animals that depend on it, and the environmental damage left behind after it has been logged. Increased road access leads to higher rates of wildlife hunting, poaching and road kill. Increased sedimentation in the watershed leads to reduced fish populations and degraded water quality for other users. Temporary or permanent loss of habitat imposes hardships on plants and animals that use the area. This deterioration in the ecosystem is not included in the cost logging companies pay the provincial government in the form of stumpage fees. Policy 4.7 should include another application that would encourage resource users to act in ways that would be both economically and environmentally sustainable. One approach could be to charge resource users for the benefits they receive from access to wildlife and wildlife habitat on the basis of how much, or little, environmental caution they exercise and the amount of environmental restoration they perform to repair any degradation caused by their activities. For example, before any harvest activities begin, a logging company would be required to post a performance bond equal to the value of what they would pay if they clearcut log without taking any environmental precautions before and during cutting or providing any ecosystem restoration afterward. When their activities have ceased in an area, the company would be refunded part of the value of the bond, according to the amount of good environmental stewardship they had demonstrated. This approach would be similar to providing a "damage deposit" to the landlord when first renting a property. Some or all of the deposit (plus nominal interest) is returned to the tenant, based on the condition of the property at the end of their tenure.

In conclusion, no matter how much effort we expend trying to perfect the recommendations in the Workbook on Wildlife, it will be for naught if appropriate resources, both financial and human, are not allocated to enact and enforce the policies. In a similar situation of concern to the MNS, the Manitoba Parks Act mandates that all provincial parks have management plans. Currently, only one employee is assigned full-time to the task of developing these plans. Using the current rate of progress, even the most optimistic forecast estimates that it will take more than sixteen years to complete the project. This is hardly in accord with the spirit of the legislation. A real danger exists that permanent damage to ecosystems will occur before the rule of law can be enforced. A similar situation will exist with these wildlife policies if appropriate funding is not allocated in future provincial budgets. In fact, the latest provincial budget announced a further ten percent reduction of provincial government staff.

The MNS appreciates this opportunity to contribute to the development of a sustainable strategy for management of wildlife use and enjoyment in Manitoba. Wildlife is important in all bioregions within the province, and the public's input to this exercise deserves careful consideration. We look forward to viewing a copy of the revised strategy when it comes available.

Sincerely,
John Shearer,
Action Vice-President

MANITOBA CATTLE PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

On behalf of the 14,000+ cattle producers in Manitoba, the Manitoba Cattle Producers Association is pleased to have the opportunity to forward additional comments to the members of the Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development with respect to the Wildlife Strategy.

The vision of the Manitoba Cattle Producers Association is a sustainable rural landscape that not only provides for producer sustainability, but wildlife and habitat sustainability and the betterment of the quality of life for producers, and all Manitoba citizens.

We feel there are 5 key requirements to accomplishing wildlife sustainability in the agricultural landscape: 1) recognition, 2) education, 3) consultation, 4) the development of partnerships and 5) stewardship at all levels, be it government, producers or the public at large.

Recognition needs to given to the fact that we, the cattle producers of Manitoba, are the preeminent sustainers of the natural landscape in the agricultural areas of our province. In order for this to continue there should be serious consideration given to compensation to those producers whose livelihoods are impacted on the outcome of this activity in relation to the work of the Round Table. If compensation is not part of the process, then subsequent participation by producers is unlikely to happen.

Should society wish to see these initiatives develop further, everyone must realize that if the producer's way of life and income are impacted, say through legal mechanisms such as covenants and caveats to protect wildlife corridors, appropriate compensation must be forthcoming for income lost. This compensation could be in the form of cash settlements, tax relief, or other mutually agreed to mechanisms.

Regardless of the approach, the principle of supporting producers who provide enhanced ecological services to society must be established if we are to have a successful wildlife strategy in the future.

Recognition needs to be given to the fact Manitoba's cattle producers are different from the other parties noted in the *Workbook on Wildlife*. Our livelihoods, and quality of life, depend on the sustainability of the landscape, not only for our generation, but those generations to come that will chose to earn their living in the profession of cattle production.

Recognition also needs to be given to those producers who have embarked on numerous projects on their lands, such as moving cattle off riparian areas and the adoption of various "wildlife friendly" grazing systems. These projects do come at a cost to producers and are done voluntarily with the realization that it is not only for the betterment of their operations, but also for the betterment of the landscape, its flora, fauna.

We believe governments at all levels, and the general public, need to recognize that private landowners are responsible for large tracts of land, and must make a living on this land, that is home to wildlife and their habitats.

Education is a key component to the success of any program. Through education processes, governments, industry partners, such as ourselves, and the public at large can gain a better understanding of the issues at hand. Thus allowing all parties to arrive at informed conclusions that are of mutual benefit to everyone, particularly at a time in our history where more and more people are removed from the land.

The development of educational modules or tools, be they for use in the education systems (public schools, universities, and colleges), or the general public, should also contain components that deal with the role that agriculture plays within the province in relation to wildlife and related habitat sustainability.

As an industry, we are working with numerous partners, such as the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation and Ducks Unlimited, in the development of projects and programs to educate our producers about wildlife habitat management on their lands for the betterment of all parities, thus assuring long-term sustainability.

At this time, we would like to extend an open-ended invitation to work with you or other groups in the development and delivery of education programs. Be it through the development of school curriculum, school visits, farm tours or other material as required for the various levels of teachers, public schools, universities, colleges, special interest groups, producer groups or the public at large.

The MCPA is please to see "consultation," "partnership" and "working cooperatively" mentioned on numerous occasions through out the *Workbook On Wildlife* and commend the Roundtable on these initiatives. We see them as being crucial cornerstones to a successful wildlife strategy.

It is always to the benefit of all parties concerned to work together in a cooperative manner to reach commen goals, objectives and consensus in a democratic method, rather than through legislation. This may mean the adaptation of an appeal process that removes the political aspect and is rather a committee made up of users, with this group having the final decision.

There needs to be a realization that equitable treatment can be questionable. Not all parties are affected the same by particular issues – the party that is impacted the most needs to be consulted first for their input before other groups are contacted.

Besides working with agencies such as MHHC and DU, we are having discussions with staff of the Department of Natural Resources. These discussion relate to cooperative activities in various areas, such as controlled grazing programs on Wildlife Management Areas, assisting in deer inventory counts, educating producers in preventative methods of dealing with predation from wildlife, such as bear attacks or depredation by deer or elk.

In the areas of crown land there needs to be a realization, especially in the wildlife management areas, that managed grazing is a valuable resource and the benefits are un-measurable with respect to the enhancement of the landscape for both wildlife and plant species.

Land set aside for non-use is becoming more and more of a breeding ground for species such as aspen, native and non-native plants that multiply and threaten to and in fact are becoming predators to the landscape. Very serious consideration needs to be given to the establishment of benchmark species and the management of these lands if the prairie characteristics are to be maintained or enhanced.

Consideration should also be given to the sale of Crown lands with caveats of usage applied in order to enhance management. If Crown lands are sold, another area of concern that needs to be addressed is the subject of road allowances and accessibility rights on undeveloped roadways.

The setting aside of land for non-use needs to be seriously looked at before it is allowed to happen. Does it actually work? With the above noted encroachment of aspen and plant species we are seeing more and more wildlife, such as white-tailed deer coming out of these areas and increasing damage to land owners property as they prefer crops and forages in their diets.

In recent years the white-tailed deer population has exploded and no one knows this better than cattle producers. We have seen increased property damage to hay yards and to fence lines when poachers cut them. In order to offset some of these costs, producers need to be encouraged to charge access fees to private lands.

The white-tailed deer population needs to be properly managed in order to sustain itself and we strongly suggest that cattle producers throughout the province be given the opportunity to have input in the setting of limits on deer for the hunting seasons throughout the province.

With the explosion of both the white-tailed deer population and the increase of elk in the province and related concerns to these two species in relation to property damage and disease, perhaps consideration needs to be given to the fencing of Federal and Provincial Government parks.

If in fact the wildlife within Manitoba belongs to the Federal and Provincial governments, then they need to be responsible for them. As producers, we are tasked with and accept the responsibility of our animals and as such must ensure that they are within fences and properly cared for. If we do not conform, we can subsequently be fined or found liable. Why should the Federal and Provincial governments be treated differently and their animals allowed to roam at will?

Understandably, there is great desire for stewardship of wildlife habitat on agricultural lands. However, everyone must recognize that it comes at a cost, be it to the producer or society as a whole.

We commend the Roundtable for their vision of a sound environment, healthy populations, and sustainable growth for the province of Manitoba and the work that has been done to date in these areas.

Manitoba's cattle producers would welcome the opportunity to be involved in the process on an ongoing basis and would suggest that serious consideration be given to include at least two of our members on the Round Table. Not only for discussions such as this, but in the adoption and implementation of the results of these discussion as they may relate to policy, planning and regulation in the future. We want to do our part to ensure that the concepts coming forward from these discussions move us toward meaningful wildlife sustainability programs on the land, and do not just become another document.

Our organization's mission statement is *"To represent all cattle producers through communication, advocacy, research and education within industry and to government, consumers and others, to improve prosperity and ensure a sustainable future."*

Our mission statement conveys similar sentiments as that of the Roundtable. It is the hope of the Manitoba Cattle Producers Association that we can continue working together for the mutual benefit of all parities to ensure a sustainable future for all.

Respectfully submitted,
Manitoba Cattle Producers Association

PARKS CANADA

Dear Sir:

Our staff have reviewed the "Workbook on Wildlife" and attended some of your open houses related to the proposed wildlife strategy. First, we would like to commend you and members of the Round Table for conducting extensive public consultation on this important matter. The purpose of this letter is to bring to your attention our concerns regarding the proposed policy for management of wildlife in this province. In addition, we will highlight the statements in the Workbook that we strongly support.

Riding Mountain and Wapusk National Parks are committed to ecosystem-based management and believe the wildlife that utilize provincial and federal crown lands must be managed on a cooperative basis. There has been progress in this area, especially at the field level. One example is in the area of data and resource sharing. We are eager to pursue opportunities to move forward in other areas, such as;

- working together within our respective jurisdictions to develop common ecosystem objectives
- working together to maintain or restore natural processes and native biodiversity
- working together to conserve endangered species
- cooperating on inventory and ecological monitoring (using common criteria/indicators and protocols, for example)
- cooperative work/research in terms of corridors, habitat maintenance etc, around our Parks and in enhancing cooperation between protected areas (federal/provincial or other)in order to conserve biodiversity.

We recognize and respect the differences in jurisdictional mandates but do not perceive this as a hindrance to working together to achieve benefits to the ecosystem.

The following are statements in the workbook that we strongly support.

1.1a "Partner with other organizations and cooperatively develop, enhance and maintain a provincial habitat inventory and monitoring program."

3.2e "Control land use activities and developments in designated wildlife lands with the objective of reducing, minimizing or eliminating the negative effects of developments."

The following are areas where Parks Canada would be interested in contributing to further discussions.

1.5 *Habitat may be altered to enhance productive capacity for wild animals and plants or assist in the maintenance of species*

Parks Canada would like to discuss opportunities to maintain native biodiversity, to the extent possible, which would include combining park objectives for habitat maintenance with provincial objectives for habitat maintenance.

2.1a *Consultation re: population targets*

We would like to be involved in consultation.

2.1b *Populations Targets*

We would like to ensure that populations are allowed to fluctuate naturally within some acceptable ranges.

2.2 *Aboriginal treaty and constitutional obligations shall be the second priority in the allocation of wild animal resources.*

This statement could be challenged by the aboriginal community.

2.5 *Access and tenure rights - commercial operators*

We feel that access, even for non-consumptive uses such as tourism, must remain within sustainable limits. Such limits would need to be defined and access monitored to ensure sustainability.

2.6 *Wild plant and animal populations shall be increased*

Natural disturbances which will result in natural population regulation should be mimicked as much as possible. This presents some significant challenges but we would be willing to provide assistance if required.

3.1,3.1a,3.1c *Wild animal and plant based industries – Promote commercial wildlife based industries, e.g., antlers. Control and regulate road access to optimize the economic potential of the tourism industry.*

We feel the policy should refer to requirements for environmental impact assessment, development of indicators and monitoring programs. There needs to be recognition that consumptive use by humans needs to be closely monitored, and limited if necessary, to ensure sustainability of the ecosystem.

p.33 *Sidebar - polar bears*

Suggest Wapusk National Park be mentioned as it protects significant denning habitat along with the CCWMA

Thank you for the opportunity to have input on the new wildlife policy. Our staff will be available to pursue discussions regarding ecosystem based management and we look forward to working with our provincial partners in the future.

Greg Fenton and Dawn Bronson,
Field Unit Superintendents,
Riding Mountain National Park, Manitoba

W. O. PRUITT, JR.

To: Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development

Comments on "Introduction:"

The Introduction, by repeating the impossible oxymoron of "sustainable economic development" continues the warped deviation from the original. Stan Rowe has written about this; "The order of the words in the United Nations-sponsored document World Commission on Environment and Development wisely implied that environment precedes development and is the latter's prerequisite. No environment, no development. Nevertheless, somewhere along the line when the Brundtland Report, Our Common Future, was being written, this bit of wisdom got lost. Instead, the Commission adopted sustainable development as its centerpiece, and in its follow-up, the Canadian Task Force - mindful that commerce rules the world - further refined the goal toward which all should strive as..."

P. 2, par. 5: "Wealth" is not generated by humans. "Wealth" is a possession of Nature, and people (if they want to avoid repercussions from Nature) must learn to extract wealth from Nature carefully, gently and enduringly.

P. 3 of Principle 3: The statement that "Manitobans share a common economic, physical and social environment" is nonsense. Tell that to a kid in Shamattawa or to a brilliant girl growing up in a Hutterite colony and doomed to a life as a brood mare.

P. 5, item 2: Why "enhance productivity?" This implies that we know what natural production levels are, and if enhancement is possible or desired and can be done without future repercussions. We do not know these things for any natural system.

P. 6: Before any more quotes from the supposed 1854 speech by Chief Seattle, read the following article:

Abruzzi, W. S. 1999. The Real Chief Seattle Was Not A Spiritual Ecologist. Skeptical Inquirer 23 (2):44-48. (In fact, I suggest you photocopy this article and distribute it widely throughout the Wildlife Branch.)

P. 7, par. 4: The statements regarding successful fire suppression are nonsense. Fire is a very real factor over most of Manitoba and our efforts to control it are almost childlike in effectiveness.

Policy Area 1: Suggested policies #01.3, 1.3 and the side bar are far from present actions (e.g., the disaster in Asessippi Provincial Park.) Most of this policy area contains good ideas but #1.1.f, 1.1.g, 1.1.h and 1.1.i are far from present actions. The recent sale of reindeer from the Assiniboine Park Zoo to a farm near Beausejour is a glaring example. Continued trade in "wild boars" is another.

#1.1.k is a dangerous item. Crown Land (i.e. publicly-owned land) should never be sold to private individuals. Policy 1.2: Good intentions, but where was this protection when Oak Hammock WMA was invaded by a commercial company, with connivance of government?

Policy 1.3 side bar: I am delighted to note that Government is finally recognizing that clear-cutting is "devastating."

Policy 1.4 and 1.5: good.

Policy area 2: Most of this is good, with a few exceptions.

Application 2.lb - This entry seems to me to be a justification to start or continue "meddling management."

2.lk: First, there must be a dispassionate, critical evaluation of what "Traditional Ecological Knowledge" really is and how reliable it is. In my experience, traditional ecological knowledge is good when it concerns when and where animals are and how to hunt them but it fails abysmally when it concerns animal movements or activities away from the immediate area or those characteristics of populations which must be known in order to manage them safely. The remainder of Policy 2 appears reasonable.

I wish you luck with 2.2e.c! Years of effort still must occur to overcome the deep distrust Aboriginal people have of quantifying their "take."

Policy Area 3:

Application 3.1 a.d: Collection of antlers implies captive wapiti. The commercial products from them have been shown to be medically useless and the source program ecologically disastrous.

Application 3.1h: Because irreparable harm can be done to a habitat or a population in a very short time, multi-year leases should never be considered. Government should always be able to step in or modify any operation on short notice. Application 3.1i: This is a slippery proposal. The "undue interference" phrase invites protracted legal wrangles. I think the intent would be protected better by a different route.

Application 3.5b and 3.5e: An admirable proposal, but ever since the first days of the Lyon Government, Manitoba has continued to reduce or eliminate support for graduate student research on wild species. Before Lyon, Taiga Biological Station received from 3 to 5 thousand dollars per year for student research support. Lyon

reduced it to one thousand dollars and then to zero. Because of the lack of student support we have been hindered in our efforts to attract and hold graduate students.

Policy Area 4: Generally good, but with some glaring exceptions.

Policy 4.2: I don't understand the proposal that...

"...Wildlife lands are managed to reduce adverse effects on adjacent lands..." In my experience it is just the opposite, with farm, ranch or recreational lands posing dangers to wildlife lands!

Application 4.2g: This application hardly agrees with the protracted, still-unsuccessful, efforts to get Woodland Caribou classified as "endangered" or the fact that Woodland Caribou in eastern Manitoba continue to decline in numbers and distribution as their range is devastated by clear-cutting and "forestry" practices.

Application 4.6d: I applaud proposals for research into traditional ecological knowledge, as long as it is unbiased and fulfills criteria for scientific validity. See my comments on Application 2.1k.

Policy Area 5: I find no objections to any of these applications.

Policy Area 6: Application 6.2 is especially good except for 6.2b rubric regarding "...harassment of wildlife users..." I do not understand the meaning of this rubric. Application 6.4 is especially good.

Policy Area 7: Suggested Policies 7.4 - What, pray tell, are "native photography practices?" Except for this strange aberration, Policy Area 7 is generally good.

Policy area 8: Generally good.

Policy Area 9: Generally good with one exception. In two places (D.5; G.13c) the policy considers private ownership of wildlife. There should be no private ownership, especially not "game farming." The predictions by knowledgeable people of the cascade of severe repercussions from private commercialized ownership of wildlife are all coming true. The Province must begin a program of recovering Crown ownership of all wildlife individuals. Compensation to the present holders of permits should not be considered because the present permit-holders have recovered their initial investments several times over.

Crown (i.e., public) ownership of wildlife, with access to all, governed by regulations that apply to all, has been the hallmark of the North American system of wildlife management. The Old World system of selective access (governed by land ownership, social status, wealth, ethnic or language group) has led, everywhere it has been in force, to collapse of wildlife populations. Public ownership of wildlife is not perfect but it is infinitely better than selective access. With the onset of "game farming" we are drifting towards selective access.

Application G.14: See my comments on Application 3.1h.

Application L.25: This should be made stronger, to "prevent introduction of exotic species for any purpose." This should be accompanied by revision of holding permits (e.g., Assiniboine Park Zoo) to prevent holders from selling, donating or releasing any exotic species. Moreover, there should be a clause to prohibit release of any native species individual that has been in captivity over a certain length of time to prevent release of possibly-exotic disease or parasite acquired while in captivity.

Policy Area 9 - Application Q.31: There is probably a reason for this section but it escapes me. Application S.36: I believe the subjects of The Endangered Species Act and The Ecological Reserves Act are too important to be buried in a general Wildlife Act.

My non-substantive comment on this Workbook is that it demonstrates the low value Government puts on Wildlife. If it were important the workbook would have been proof-read more carefully for grammatical and spelling errors.

William O. Pruitt, Jr.,
Senior Scholar,
Department of Zoology,
University of Manitoba

RANDALL STEFANSON

To: Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development

To whom it may concern:

I was made aware of this meeting earlier today. I have many concerns about the future of wildlife and fish within the province of Manitoba. This would include the health and the future of both wildlife and fish.

These concerns stem from the pollution of our environment from both municipal waste, specifically sewage treatment lagoons and the discharging of these lagoons into streams and rivers as well as from agriculture.

(1) The treatment lagoons are a technology whose time may be coming to an end. While the time to begin discussion as to how to handle municipal waste is past due, it is a subject that we must begin to discuss. We must examine the problem of waste, and discuss and create solutions that will reduce the impact that we have on the environment as we concentrate people and waste.

(2) Over the past few years the Manitoba government has been encouraging agriculture to undergo a change from family farm type operations to large corporate style operations. These large corporate livestock operations often locate in marginal agricultural areas. While these areas may not have much human habitation, wildlife is another matter. Agriculture has encroached on wildlife areas. With these large corporate-style factory operations we will see a major impact upon the wildlife of our community. There is much to learn about what the impact of the manure from these operations will be. We do know that the manure from these operations is not treated as anything but a waste product. We don't know all the diseases that can be transmitted from hogs to people, or from hogs to wildlife. We do know that these operations are only viable if they utilize antibiotics and growth hormones. The parasites, viruses, and bacteria found in manure, as well as the antibiotics and growth hormones, are a danger not only to the wildlife but to the human population as well. This is not fear mongering, this is reality.

As a farmer I recognize that I must be careful with the chemicals and the fertilizers that I use. Currently the major factor that dictates, that chemical farmers safely use fertilizers and chemicals, is economic. By this I mean, that I have to pay for the fertilizer and chemicals, so I must be careful not to over-apply. That in itself does not prevent over-application.

This is a brief presentation. This is a complex issue, there is a paradigm shift happening in agriculture. Where we are going will come to haunt us and our children and their children unless we start to apply some common sense today.

Your sincerely, Randall Stefanson,
Pres. Stefanson Farms Ltd.

STEINBACH GAME & FISH ASSOCIATION

STEPHEN BRICKEY

To: Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development

Dear Sir or Madam:

As President of the Steinbach Game & Fish Association, I recently received copies of your workbooks on Wildlife and Fish and the accompanying questionnaires. After reviewing these documents and making further inquiries, the executive of my organization has concluded that it cannot support the procedures you have established for soliciting feedback on the range of issues you present. There are several reasons for this nonsupport.

First, your method of distributing the questionnaires is, at best, haphazard and at worst, vulnerable to systematic abuse by some individuals. One of the basic tenets of social science research is that any attempt to survey the public on an issue must have as its first concern the issue of obtaining a random sample of the population under study. It is only through a random sample that the researcher can have any confidence that the opinions obtained can be inferred to the larger population with a specified margin of error. Thus, all reputable polling companies include information on the sample size and the margin of error of their findings. Your approach, as we understand it, is that you sent questionnaires to interested parties, and if certain organizations requested additional copies, you would supply them the requested number. By using this procedure to distribute questionnaires, you have no control on who fills them out. It is possible that one person could sit down and complete fifty questionnaires! As a result, our organization has no confidence that the results you will obtain will accurately reflect the views of the citizens of this Province.

A second concern involves the wording of the questions. Although there is much in both workbooks to support, the broad and ambiguous manner in which the questions are structured leaves the respondent in the position where they do not know what they are agreeing to by supporting the statement. For example, on page 8 of the Wildlife Strategy Questionnaire, a number of statements are presented around the allocation of wild animals and plants for industry, and the respondent is asked to agree or disagree with the statements. One question is whether or not there should be support for the following: "Identify opportunities and develop programs to promote other commercial wildlife-based industries, e.g., the harvesting or collecting of snakes, frogs, antlers and plants." While my organization would support the properly regulated harvesting of snakes, frogs and wild rice, what activities are included when reference is made to antlers? If it involves the collecting of shed antlers, we would not oppose it. If, however, it includes trapping and ranching elk for the purpose of selling their antlers, then we would strongly oppose it. The problem is that issues such as elk ranching are never made explicit in the questionnaire. If we agree to the above statement, are we also implicitly agreeing to commercial ventures such as elk ranching? Given the controversial nature of this subject, why would there not be a separate set of questions on the topic of trapping big game animals and other wildlife that could affect the future of hunting in Manitoba? The above question is just one example of the problems we encountered when we reviewed the questionnaires.

Finally, we have a concern with how the information that is being collected is going to be used in the development of new policies in the area of natural resources. At the end of the workbook you present a flow chart which indicates that a policy document will be written based on the work of the Round Table. Given the nonrandom method in which you are soliciting public feedback to your proposed policies, we strongly urge you to involve organizations such as the Manitoba Wildlife Federation and its affiliates when you are drafting this document. We would welcome the opportunity to see the draft policies that you will be recommending and would also welcome the opportunity to provide our views on these policies.

In summary, while our organization supports the concept of sustainable development in the area of natural resources, we cannot endorse your methods of assessing the public's views on your work to date.

Sincerely, Stephen Brickey, President, Steinbach Game & Fish Association

THE ORGANIZATION,

A PROVINCIAL COALITION FOR RESPONSIBLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

To: Sustainable Development Coordination Unit

Dear Mr. Stephens,

On May 18, 1999, I attended the 'Sustainable Development Strategy on Wildlife Management" Workshop in the Winnipeg Convention Center, 375 York Ave.

There are 4 reasons I refused to participate:

1. I came to observe, check and identify if I had heard most of the rhetoric before.
2. The enclosed copy of my letter of January 5, 1999 could serve as a "form-letter" in response to this and future Workshops: *"Yes, I have heard this before."*
3. The questions in the Questionnaire are always of the same caliber as the trick question: *"Do you still beat your wife?"* "Yes" condemns you as a wife beater, while "no" condemns you as a former wife beater.
4. I am a long-time deer hunter, but I still hate unnecessary cruelty to animals. Some people condemned the cruelty that is involved in capturing elk. But as true believers in the CONSERVATIVE-party's pro-business approach, nobody objected to the inhumane and absolute cruelty involved in removing bull elks' antlers. As an "observer only," it wasn't the time nor place for me to discuss participants' opinions, lack of same or their rationale.

Anybody is entitled to his or her opinion. But from past experience, I like to give you this little story as an analogy: A lady who is worried about the state of health of her overweight husband, asks him to study a medical chart which explains the right weight for a person, in relationship to his height. After studying the chart for a while he tells her: You are right dear, there is lots of scary information here, but actually there is no evidence of anybody ever having died from being too short!"

By supposedly allowing the people to have a say in the Sustainable Development Strategy in Wildlife Management (or any other Management), the strategy seems to work. The fact remains that the minister (the overweight husband), knows that the final decisions have been or will be made by him. The only sustainable part will be the short-term economic gains for members and/or supporters of the conservative party.

Actually, page 44, under Application: the bottom line is: The Manitoba Round Table suggests, but the government decides when what is appropriate to allow the advisory or appeal boards to recommend direction to the minister. Then the minister will make the "final" decision, but if this decision causes conflicts at the district or regional level, then the premier's appropriate (?) cabinet committee has to make the real final decision, which usually amounts to: "The public be damned, after us the deluge!" Respectfully, Ron Dalmyn

Copy: Hon Mr. J. Glen Cummings.

Exhibit: [as follows]

To: Sustainable Development

From: The Organization, a Provincial Coalition for Responsible Resource Management

Dear Mr. Stephens,

Thank you for your letter of December 16, 1998. I attended the Winnipeg Workshop in the Viscount Gort. Because I have gone to a few of these, I was neither surprised nor offended by this one.

When just a few days ago one of my friends told me that he overheard the Manitoba Premier, the Honourable Mr. Gary Filmon saying that a good example of Sustainable Development is the Maple Leaf Meats Inc. Packing plant being built in Brandon. If the Honourable Premier believes, as long as Manitoba can deliver enough hogs to Maple Leaf in Brandon, it will be sustainable for the hog industry as well as the packing industry, he couldn't be more wrong.

Regardless if the Premier or someone else said this, or if nobody ever said this, would you agree with this line of thinking, or with mine?

At different occasions I always have publicly stated, that any development that was not environmentally sustainable, was not sustainable at all and would self-destruct. Enclosed is a copy of a self-explanatory letter I wrote to the Union of Manitoba Municipalities, after I attended a Manitoba Drinking Water Program Consultation public meeting.

Since 1989 I have heard the same rhetoric from politicians over and over again. But the water quality is worse now than it was in 1989. But as long as this government refuses to legislate enforceable anti-pollution laws, all of the meetings and rhetoric will continue to be a waste of taxpayers' money.

Thank you for your valuable time, and please advise, Respectfully, Ron Dalmyn.

SHARON AND WYBO VANDERSCHUIT

Honourable J. Glen Cummings
Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development

Dear Sir,

Regarding the proposed Manitoba Wildlife Strategy, for what it's worth, we would like to share some of our feelings on several issues.

Sharon and I have each shot some ducks and geese in the past, but we are not avid hunters. In principal, we have no problem with Manitobans hunting wildlife for food. However, we have some concerns about the direction of the "strategy" and some of the issues related to hunting.

1. Ecosystems vs. Resources: The introductory pages of the "workbook" talk about ecosystems and biodiversity and natural processes. This was refreshing to see, but was it really just a smokescreen? Every other section refers to plants and animals simply as "resources." This implies that wildlife is allowed to exist only for human use, and that any "resource" that humans don't use is wasted. Your writers obviously realize that most people won't read the whole document.

When will your department finally stop talking about ecosystem-based management, and actually start doing it? I guess you need to believe in it first.

2. Public Safety: We have a very real concern with the safety of our children and our livestock. We hear about stray bullets hitting cars on highways, hunters shooting each other by accident, and people giving up hunting because of the risk. Friends of ours have been shot at hiking on their own land; some guy thought they were deer. Part of the problem is too many hunters using very limited areas, like Wildlife Mgt. Areas and the right-of-ways along the Riding Mountain National Park boundary.

Another disturbing factor is the length of the hunting seasons. We can't hike along the Park boundary for 2/3 of the year because it is too dangerous. There are bear baits and tree-stands everywhere. From late August to late January, plus a spring bear season, is too much to put up with.

Given that the number of hunters is steadily declining, and the anti-hunting segment of society is getting bigger and more vocal every day, why does your department continue to promote more hunting and longer seasons?? Obviously, there is revenue in it, through taxes and licenses etc. And the outfitters must have a strong lobby (why wouldn't they when they make big bucks off OUR resources). Their political donations are just an investment in their own future, and they can write them off, as well. But society in general is moving away from hunting. Why is that a problem for your government?

We think you need to be more democratic in your support of non-consumptive tourism related to wildlife. Hiking, biking, horse use and photography, to name just a few, would increase significantly if the hunting seasons were shortened and the risks to the rest of us are reduced.

3. Wolves: Wolves, as well as most of the other big predators native to Manitoba, are in real trouble. These species have played a key role in the grassland and forest ecosystems of the province for thousands of years. Every effort should be made to allow these predator populations to return to sustainable population levels and to regain their rightful place in the food web. These ecological systems are too complex for us to even understand. How can you claim to "manage" them? By manipulating game populations, and trying to replace natural predators with hunters, you risk doing irreparable ecological harm, such as loss of biodiversity and collapse of the food web.

Please take wolves off the big game license.

4. High Whitetail Deer Populations: This is an interesting dilemma. Whitetails have replaced the mule deer in many areas. Whether they tolerate our cultural landscape better, or they simply chased the mule deer out, they sure have taken over! One problem is, there are no natural predators left on the farmlands of southern Manitoba. A lot of people are worried about their crops and hay.

At the Russell meeting in June, a solution was suggested which has a lot of merit. The First Nations bands of southern Manitoba have traditionally been hunters and providers for the "community." We feel your department should facilitate and promote cooperative programs with First Nations to do population control on whitetail deer. Landowners with deer problems would apply for assistance. A program coordinator and the designated First Nations hunters in the area would work with the landowner to "reduce" the population at an appropriate time.

The meat, after going through a licensed abattoir perhaps, could be returned to the Band to feed the community. Excess supplies of deer meat could go to food banks in Winnipeg or other communities.

5. Hunting for Meat vs. Trophies: We feel controlled hunting for meat is acceptable under appropriate regulation/restrictions. We think that hunting for trophies or simply for sport/fun is deplorable and should be eliminated. We urge you to move toward phasing out any hunting of species not utilized for human consumption. This would of course include black bears and wolves.

A good start would be the elimination of the spring bear hunt and baiting for bears. These practices are ill-founded and completely unacceptable in our so-called humane society. Anyone who supports this shooting gallery at a bear-bait, and calls it "hunting," can only be motivated by the money because it is ethically a nonstarter.

6. Endangered Species / Biodiversity: Manitoba needs to take the conservation of biodiversity more seriously. That means funding, and partnerships, and a real commitment to actions on habitat preservation. The "endangered" species themselves represent just the tip of the iceberg.

Regulations protecting these species will only go so far, even on public lands. And private landowners cannot afford to take proactive actions to enhance or preserve habitat if it is going to cost them money. What we really need is a system of tax breaks and other incentives to make significant progress on habitat issues.

The recent increase in tax levies on wetlands is an example of the worst kind of dis-incentive for habitat protection. Aspen groves and wetlands are still being buried all over the province because of the taxation of the Manitoba government. It is time the Assessment Branch catches up with the demands of society. The old guidelines are no longer valid.

Obviously, not all the wildlife issues can be dealt with adequately by your department alone. It's time you accept that, and make a serious effort to form the kinds of ownerships that can get the job done.

You need open-minded people to implement an adaptive approach to ecosystem-based management. That means starting to do the right things, monitoring progress, and adjusting accordingly.

Honest and open communication is another key, and will result in a more trusting and satisfied public in the long run. Manage Manitoba's resources for all Manitobans, including our future generations, and not for few who exploit our wildlife for their own financial gain.

Thank you for seeking public input throughout this process. We sincerely hope that you will now take our collective comments seriously, and that you will make significant moves to improve the direction of wildlife management in Manitoba.

Sharon and Wybo Vanderschuit

Winnipeg Game & Fish

We have reviewed the above and submit the following comments in place of filling out the detailed Questionnaire itself.

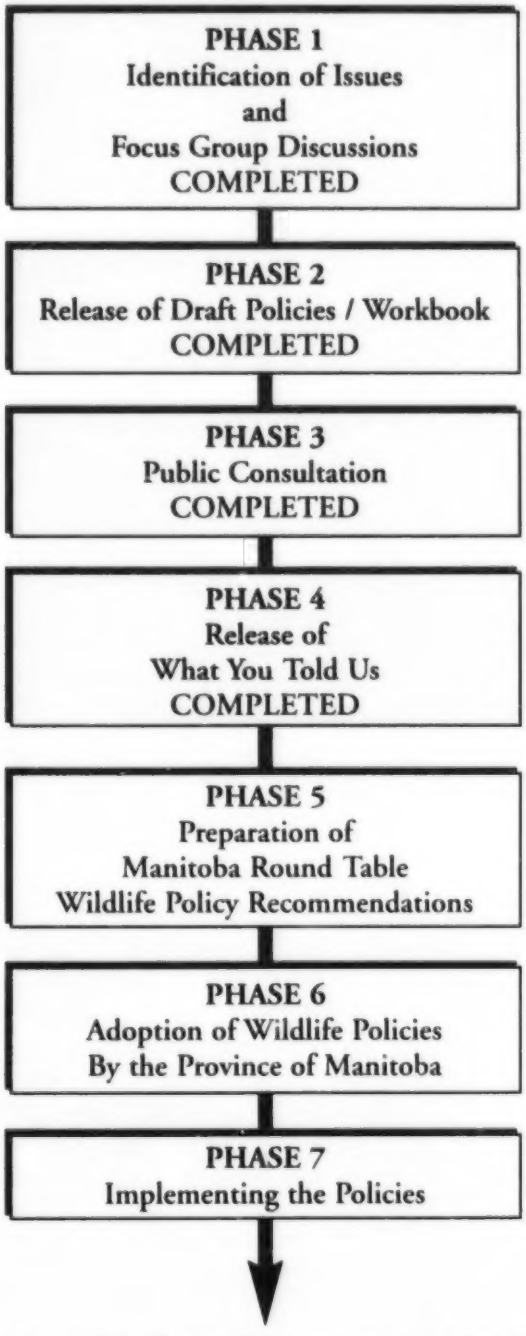
We find the Questionnaire very offensive from the point of view of being a waste of time and money. Before assuming that this negative response is simply anti-government, we want to strongly point out that this is not true. In fact, just the opposite is true. Everyone who generally supports legitimate government roles and initiatives should be very alarmed and concerned about money-wasting things like this because they become further symbolic examples that continue to erode the public's confidence and perceptions of efficient accomplishment in government. In this case, one can only assume once again that this Questionnaire is about politics and bureaucracy rather than substance - an attempt, we suppose, to show that there is significant "public consultation" from a political point-of-view.

The problem with this Questionnaire is that the stated policies and questions are of such a high level that, for the most part, it is difficult to imagine that any knowledgeable and responsible person would not "agree" or "strongly agree" with them. It is like stating a policy that "airplanes should only fly in the air," and then we should do a public survey to see if everyone agrees. What is not clear, however, is why there seemingly exists such a compelling need to proclaim such "high moral ground" policies.

As with most topics, the major issues and difficult decisions on wildlife and habitat management do not lie in these high level policies, but rather in the detailed principles, issues and rulings that lie underneath. These are the day-to-day issues such as the priority allocation of budgetary funds, elk ranching, spring snow goose hunt, spring bear hunt, etc., just to name a few. It is issues like this that will no doubt be the "hot" topics at the public workshops - with little interest in whether "airplanes should only fly in the air."

In regard to all these detailed issues, for our part, the people that we trust above all others are the professional wildlife managers, professional biologists and the related professionals whose training and job it is to "do the right thing" based on training, science, biology, environment, studies and data. Furthermore, they must be allowed to do their jobs to the greatest extent possible and practical, unencumbered by politics and bureaucracy. Surely, the money spent on this Questionnaire would have been better placed in the hands of these professionals, with their results and proposals on important issues professionally presented and justified to the public, if required. It is in this way that we will begin to restore some confidence in government efficiency, processes and actions.

Respectfully submitted,
Clarence Thio, Pres.,
Winnipeg Game & Fish Executive
XC: Manitoba Wildlife Federation


PHASE 1
Identification of Issues
and
Focus Group Discussions
COMPLETED
PHASE 2
Release of Draft Policies / Workbook
COMPLETED
PHASE 3
Public Consultation
COMPLETED
PHASE 4
Release of
What You Told Us
COMPLETED
PHASE 5
Preparation of
Manitoba Round Table
Wildlife Policy Recommendations
PHASE 6
Adoption of Wildlife Policies
By the Province of Manitoba
PHASE 7
Implementing the Policies
CONTINUING PROCESS TOWARDS A
COMPREHENSIVE
LAND AND WATER STRATEGY